



Daily Report

Latin America

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Thursday
8 December 1988

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CONTENTS

8 December 1988

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not previously disseminated in electronic form.

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

Postponement of Gorbachev Visit Announced [Havana Radio]	1
Rodriguez on Importance of Gorbachev's Visit [Havana TV]	1
USSR Declares Moratorium on Nation's Debt [Havana TV]	1
USSR Issues Note on Bilateral Relations [Havana TV]	2
'Moncada-88' Conducted in Central Provinces [Havana TV]	2

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

OECS Leaders Meet in St Lucia, Hold Talks	2
Political Union Talks Previewed [Bonaire Radio]	2
14th Summit Meeting Ends [CANAL]	2
Windward Islands' Union Plans [Bonaire Radio]	3
Common Power Systems Corporation Approved [Bonaire Radio]	3

Grenada

Prime Minister Blaize Suffering 'Exhaustion' [CANAL]	3
Undergoes Surgery 7 Dec [CANAL]	3
Jones Discusses Venezuela's 'Unfriendliness' [CANAL]	4

Haiti

Msgr Romelus Message on Human Rights Week [Port-au-Prince Radio]	4
Military Accused of Black Marketing Sugar [Port-au-Prince Radio]	5

Jamaica

Prime Minister Calls for Meeting With Manley [CANAL]	6
PNP Names New Constituency Candidate [CANAL]	6
Government To House 10,000 Homeless Families [Bonaire Radio]	7
Renowned Lawyer Murdered in Kingston [CANAL]	7

CENTRAL AMERICA

Costa Rica

Foreign Minister Cited on Presidents' Summit [San Jose Radio]	8
Border Patrols Coordinated With Nicaragua [San Jose Radio]	8
Two Supreme Court Magistrates Retire [LA NACION 30 Nov]	8

El Salvador

Duarte To Leave Mexican Hospital 7 Dec [Mexico City TV]	8
Public Opinion Poll Results Released [San Salvador Radio]	8

Guatemala

URNG Leader Comments on Human Rights, War [Havana International]	9
Security Forces Seize Cocaine; 3 Arrested [PRENSA LIBRE 4 Dec]	9

Honduras

Arrival of Nicaraguan Helicopter Confirmed [ACAN]	10
Army Issues Communique [ACAN]	10
Reports on 'Border Confrontation' Denied [Tegucigalpa Radio]	10
* President Azcona Supports UN Peace Force [EL HERALDO 1 Nov]	11
* Human Rights Violation Investigated by Army [EL HERALDO 18 Oct]	11
* Editorial on 'Incident' [EL HERALDO 19 Oct]	12
Carlos Flores Wins PLH Presidential Nomination [Tegucigalpa Radio]	12
* Liberal Party Leader Addresses Assembly [EL HERALDO 31 Oct]	12
Agriculture Agreement Signed With Canada [EL HERALDO 3 Dec]	13

Nicaragua

Pilot Deserts to Honduras in Helicopter [ACAN]	13
Communique Confirms Defection [Managua Radio]	13
'Nandaime Prisoners' Reportedly Released [ACAN]	14
* Sources' on Cuts in Health, Education Budgets [EL NUEVO DIARIO 5 Dec]	14
Ortega Responds to Report [Managua TV]	14
Thousands Seek Canadian Visas To Emigrate [LA PRENSA 2 Dec]	15
Communist Party Leader Views Political Scene [Managua Radio]	15

Panama

Solis Palma Support Message to Alfonsin Cited [LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 7 Nov]	15
Ambassador Boyd's Speech to OAS Group Noted [LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 5 Dec]	15
Opposition Leaders Accused of Money Laundering [CRITICA 6 Dec]	17
PPA Leader Downplays 'Division' Within Party [Panama City TV]	17
Political Leaders Seeking New Alliance [MEDIODIA 6 Dec]	17
Comptroller General Reports on Revenues [MEDIODIA 5 Dec]	18

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Alfonsin Praises Army; Thanks Private Sector [Buenos Aires TV]	19
Dante Caridi Reportedly Requests Retirement [NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]	19
To Remain Army Chief [TELAM]	19
Caridi, Army Discuss Military Uprising, Outcome [TELAM]	19
Angeloz Suggests Panamanian Support of Seineldin [TELAM]	20
Inquest for 6th Infantry Regiment Incidents [NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]	20
Aldo Rico Transferred to Magdalena Prison [Buenos Aires Radio]	20
Government 'Not Planning' Popular Plebiscite [TELAM]	20
Communist Party Shows Video on 4 Dec Incidents [NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]	21
Industrial Exports Increase for Jan-Oct 1988 [Buenos Aires Radio]	21
Cost of Living Increases 5.7 Percent in Nov [Buenos Aires Radio]	21

Bolivia

Bomb Explodes in Chamber of Deputies [Madrid EFE]	21
Message: 'Death to Congress' [La Paz Radio]	21

Brazil

Sarney Warns Against 'Socialist Revolution' [O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 4 Dec]	22
Leftists Against Request To Impeach Sarney [O GLOBO 6 Dec]	22

Government Interested in Gorbachev UN Address [Rio de Janeiro TV]	22
French Administration Minister Meets Sarney [Brasilia Radio]	23
Brazilian-EEC Business Council Created [O GLOBO 6 Dec]	23
Newsman With Tourist Visa Expelled From Havana [O GLOBO 6 Dec]	23

Chile

Londono Pays 'Courtesy Visit' to Pinochet [Santiago Radio]	23
Economy Minister Back From GATT Conference [Santiago Radio]	23
Terrorists Blow Up Electric Tower, Posts [Santiago TV]	23
Bombs, Blackouts, Disorders Reported in Capital [Madrid EFE]	24
Caceres: Military To Resume 'Specific Tasks' [FORTIN MAPOCHO 2 Dec]	24
New Army Deputy Commander Assumes Post [EL MERCURIO 2 Dec]	24
Radical Democracy Party President Resigns [EL MERCURIO 2 Dec]	24
PCCh Announces Start of National Congress [Santiago Radio]	24
Central Bank Official To Leave; Job Completed [Santiago TV]	25

Colombia

National Police Official on Narcotics Seizures [LA PRENSA 1 Dec]	25
* INCORA To Expropriate Drug Traffickers' Land [EL ESPECTADOR 24 Oct]	25
Military Appointments, Promotions Announced [EL TIEMPO 1 Dec]	26
* Pablo Escobar's Cousin Assassinated in Bogota [SEMANA 15 Nov]	26
* Economic Effect of Guerrilla Violence Noted [EL COLOMBIANO 9 Nov]	26

Peru

Two French Engineers, Judge Murdered in Aquira [Madrid EFE]	27
Fisheries Minister on Agreement With USSR [Lima TV]	27
Bank Federation Suspends Strike for 72 Hours [Lima Radio]	28
* Agriculture Minister on Food Subsidies [EL NACIONAL 16 Oct]	28

Venezuela

Defense Minister Reports Colombian Border Clash [AFP]	28
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Guyana

State Media Reports Agreement Signed With PRC [CANAL]	28
Mining Agreement Reached With Venezuelan Firm [CANAL]	29

Cuba

Postponement of Gorbachev Visit Announced

FL0812115188 Havana Radio Reloj Network
in Spanish 1132 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] Top Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev will travel back to Moscow early this morning because of the earthquake that caused the death of thousands of people and injured tens of thousands in the Armenian Republic.

The announcement was made by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze. He added that because of the seriousness of the situation in the area affected by the earthquake, which registered 9 on the Richter scale, Gorbachev postponed for the moment his visits to Cuba and the United Kingdom.

Calling the Armenian earthquake a great tragedy for the Soviet country, Foreign Minister Shevardnadze explained that Gorbachev believes he has to direct the aid efforts at a time when his people are suffering.

A state commission is in Armenia for the rescue efforts and to provide help to the victims. The party, government, and other organizations of neighboring Azerbaijan began offering help to Armenia.

Rodriguez on Importance of Gorbachev's Visit

FL0712191588 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network
in Spanish 1800 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Interview with Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the PCC Politburo and vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, by journalist Miguel Rivero; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Rivero] With just a few hours left before the arrival in Cuba of Mikhail Gorbachev, secretary general of the CPSU, Dr Rafael Rodriguez, member of the PCC Politburo, has agreed to talk with the National Television News.

We wanted to ask you, Doctor, what is the meaning of, how important do you believe this visit is? This is the first visit Gorbachev has made to Cuba and the first contact he has made with the Latin American Continent. This will be the first time he has come to Latin America.

[Rodriguez] You have noted an important aspect of Comrade Gorbachev's trip to Cuba. It is the first trip he has made to Latin America, the first he has made to our country. This makes it one of special significance. He could have chosen another way [as heard] of visiting our country. However, he wanted to show his affection toward our country and the interest he has in relations with Cuba by specifically choosing Cuba as the country to visit this time.

Besides this, Comrade Gorbachev's visit to Cuba will give us Cubans the opportunity to express the indissoluble and unbreakable unity between our two countries. There is also a unilateral aspect. Relations with the Soviet Union are the most important for our country. Without the Soviet Union, as I had the opportunity to state on Cuban television recently, the Cuban revolution would have taken a completely different course because we would have had enormous difficulties just surviving. However, the Cuban revolution has had the help of the Soviet Union in all areas; in the economic, political, and military areas.

Soviet weapons have allowed us to organize our defense at the time of Giron and later, after Giron, by making us invulnerable to the attacks of imperialism. Consequently, we are respected. All this reveals the type of relations we have with the Soviet Union. The fact that the main figure of our times in the Soviet Union is coming here gives Cuban-Soviet relations a new flavor, a new meaning.

The Cuban people will take to the streets on the day of Gorbachev's arrival to express this; not only their personal admiration to the arriving leader but also their affection, their love, and indissoluble friendship with the Soviet Union.

[Rivero] Thank you very much, Dr Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, for these remarks for the National Television News.

[Rodriguez] Thank you.

USSR Declares Moratorium on Nation's Debt

FL0812015288 Havana Television Service in Spanish
0100 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] The news conference held a short time ago at the Habana Libre Hotel in the capital dealt with relations between the Soviet Union and Cuba. It was attended by representatives from the national and foreign press.

It was stressed at the news conference that for the past 30 years, the USSR has maintained important assistance to Cuba to promote integral development and create a solid economic and scientific-technical basis. The cooperation, agreements, and exchanges between the two countries will continue to increase. It was reported at the news conference that the visit of the highest Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, to Cuba will give a favorable and decisive impulse to these initiatives.

In reference to the foreign debt of developing countries and the policy the USSR will follow in the future, it was specifically reported that in Cuba's case the USSR has just declared a moratorium on the payment of this debt without any type of interest.

The Soviet foreign policy for the next few years also anticipates greater exchanges with Latin American countries in general, which will give these countries a larger opening to the world market.

USSR Issues Note on Bilateral Relations

*FL0812022288 Havana Television Service
in Spanish 0100 GMT 8 Dec 88*

[Text] Just a few hours before the Soviet leader was to arrive in Cuba, the Soviet Foreign Ministry issued an official note that was read to foreign correspondents accredited in that country. The note indicates that Soviet-Cuban relations are friendly, profound, multifaceted, and are based on the same political system and principles of independence and sovereignty. The note also adds that among the central principles of those ties is the noninterference in the internal affairs of each country.

The declaration indicates that the high degree of friendship does not imply that views are absolutely identical on specific aspects of international relations or on internal policy, because all peoples and countries have their own characteristics which do not impede cooperation and friendship in any way.

'Moncada-88' Conducted in Central Provinces

*FL0712200588 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network
in Spanish 1800 GMT 7 Dec 88*

[Excerpt] The "Moncada-88" exercise continues being conducted in the central provinces of the country as part of the military preparedness program for this year.

A commission headed by Division General Ulises Rosales del Toro, first vice minister of the FAR and chief of the General Staff, and Julian Rizo, both alternate members of the PCC Politburo, visited among other places in Cienfuegos Province an Abreu Municipality defense zone which has been activated since the beginning of the exercise. Here they were able to see how defense was implemented in the zone during the situation presented and what measures were taken to preserve the economic objectives of the place and the lives of its residents. They also visited a Territorial Troops Militia unit which is identified with the same name as the first force that repelled the mercenary attack in Playa Giron, 339 Battalion. [passage omitted]

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

OECS Leaders Meet in St Lucia, Hold Talks

Political Union Talks Previewed

*FL2311162088 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English
1130 GMT 23 Nov 88*

[Text] Leaders of the seven nations of the Organization of the Eastern Caribbean States, the OECS, will meet in St Lucia tomorrow. The discussion will center on the fusion of their police and customs.

The ongoing goal is political union, and the chairman of OECS, St Lucian Prime Minister John Compton, says even if there is not a consensus, those who are ready will proceed.

Six of the nations are pro union: They are St Lucia, Grenada, St Vincent, Dominica, St Kitts, and Montserrat. Only Antigua and Barbuda have opposed the union, calling it a return to colonialism.

14th Summit Meeting Ends

*FL2611184888 Bridgetown CANA in English
1839 GMT 26 Nov 88*

[Text] Castries, St. Lucia Nov 26, CANA—The heads of government of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) have ended their 14th summit in Castries with agreement on ways to develop and protect their vital agriculture and fisheries sectors.

They have also agreed on a strategy for the forthcoming negotiations between Europe and developing countries on the Lome Trade and Aid Pact.

The heads have agreed to a common system for access to fishing in each member country and that the OECS fisheries unit in St. Vincent would be responsible for the granting of licences to people who want to fish in waters of the OECS on the request of each government. "They also agreed that for purposes of surveillance and monitoring of illegal fishing, the OECS should have one common fisheries zone", Director General of the OECS Dr. Vaughn Lewis said. He noted that for this purpose it was agreed that the system that had been designed to ensure proper access to OECS waters will come into affect with the start of the new fishing season in December 1988.

It was agreed that the secretariat will have the responsibility for communicating the intention of the governments to commence negotiations with the Government of Venezuela on maritime delimitation.

"The matter is to be handled on a collective basis so that there will be some harmony in the positions of all countries and the secretariat is to pursue this matter", Dr. Lewis said.

The heads agreed to accept a programme of agricultural diversification prepared by the Caribbean Development Bank and allied institutions.

"The report identifies the best means of transportation and marketing in Europe to get those products sold, and ways of encouraging local farmers to develop those crops in quantities that make economic sense", the director general said.

Prime Minister Eugina Charles of Dominica announced that the OECS leaders have agreed to appoint a committee which will select a coordinator who will put this into action immediately.

"The idea is to make sure that the markets and shipping facilities are available and that people realise what quantities of produce are required to make it viable", Charles said.

On the Lome discussions, Dr. Lewis said the heads agreed that there should be some harmony in the negotiations on the Caribbean side, and this involved preparations for a meeting of ACP ambassadors to be held in Barbados in January.

[African, Caribbean, and Pacific countries] "That meeting will be attended by a ministerial group from the OECS linked to Caricom (the Caribbean Community) to seek to influence other ambassadors and officials present in the direction of what the OECS wants out of a new Lome convention", Dr. Lewis added. He said it was agreed that the heads would identify an individual who would be a centralised co-ordinator of OECS relationships with Europe, and select a team from among themselves to begin visits to European countries with which they are not familiar.

The heads agreed to enter into cooperation with Venezuela, the French Departments of Martinique and Guadeloupe and the United States to stem the flow of illegal drugs. Details of the plan were not disclosed.

Windward Islands' Union Plans

FL2611144388 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English
1300 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Text] The four Windward Island countries—St Lucia, St Vincent, Grenada, and Dominica—have decided to go forward with plans to form a political union without the participation of the Leeward Islands. The decision came at the end of a 2-day meeting of the leaders of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States yesterday.

Common Power Systems Corporation Approved

FL2411152688 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English
1130 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Text] Managers of East Caribbean electrical companies have ended a 2-day meeting in Grenada with an agreement to establish a common services corporation. The move is expected to help modernize power systems in the region. The project is specifically targeted at the utilities of the Eastern Caribbean states of Anguilla, Antigua, Dominica, Grenada, St Kitts, St Lucia, and St Vincent; but Barbados, where the headquarters will be located, has been invited to participate, and other aid countries like the British Virgin Islands, Jamaica, and Belize may participate if they want to.

Non-aid countries, such as Trinidad, Bermuda, and the Bahamas may participate at market-rate fees.

Grenada

Prime Minister Blaize Suffering 'Exhaustion'

FL0712115288 Bridgetown CANA in English
2210 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Dec 6, CANA—Grenada's 70-year-old prime minister, Herbert Blaize, has been ordered by his doctor to take a few days rest, aides reported Tuesday. One official who asked not to be named said that Blaize has been restricted to his bed because of exhaustion. The news came after External Affairs Minister Ben Jones had stood in for Blaize on a few occasions.

They said Blaize should be well enough to attend this weekend's two-day annual convention of the ruling New National Party (NNP).

Last Friday night Blaize allowed Jones to read his weekly radio and television report to the nation. The prime minister also failed to show up for Monday's sitting of Parliament, allowing Jones to spearhead all government bills. Jones was also chairing Tuesday's weekly cabinet session at the office of the prime minister.

In recent months, Blaize has been travelling extensively. In September, he left Grenada for a month-long trip to the United States, Australia, West Germany, and Britain to attend a series of international meetings.

Blaize was also in St Lucia last week for a meeting of heads of government of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and then headed to Dominica for a two-day visit as part of the island's 10th anniversary of independence.

Undergoes Surgery 7 Dec

FL0712135288 Bridgetown CANA in English
1336 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] St. George's, Grenada, Dec 7, CANA—Grenada's prime minister, Herbert Blaize, was resting in hospital Wednesday, after undergoing an operation, officials here reported.

They said the 70-year-old leader who was admitted to the St. George's General Hospital Tuesday afternoon, had the operation to clear a blocked intestine. He is being kept in hospital for observation.

Last week, Blaize's doctor had ordered him to rest because of exhaustion and Foreign Minister Ben Jones has been standing in for the veteran leader.

Jones Discusses Venezuela's 'Unfriendliness'

FL2811141888 Bridgetown CANA in English
1512 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Nov 27, CANA—External Affairs Minister Ben Jones says Grenada would regard as an act of "unfriendliness" any further delay by Venezuela in resolving a two-month-old incident in which six Grenadians are charged with alleged smuggling.

Jones made the statement in an address broadcast nationwide at the weekend in which he accused Venezuela of failing to keep its promise to have the matter resolved speedily.

He said that the "inordinate delay" by Caracas in resolving the matter clearly brought into question the relationship existing between the two governments.

"It is this government's view that any further delay in solving the problem would constitute an act of unfriendliness on the part of our friends, the Venezuelans," he said.

Customs authorities on the Venezuelan tourist island of Margarita detained six Grenadians on September 21 for alleged exportation of a number of items on its negative list.

Shortly afterwards, Jones visited Caracas to look into the matter and on his return said the Venezuelan foreign minister assured him that the matter would be given "priority treatment."

The case which was transferred to the mainland has now been sent back to Margarita with no date set for a hearing.

Jones said the Grenada Government regarded the latest development as being "most unsatisfactory."

He said the six persons who went to shop in Caracas were not living in Venezuela and by now would have exhausted whatever funds they had for food and clothing.

He accused the Venezuelans of flouting establishing norms of international law.

Jones also said that Grenada hoped that this "non-chalant attitude" of Venezuela was not a reprisal for Grenada's apprehension of two Venezuelan fishing boats and 12-member crew caught fishing in the island's territorial waters in February 1986.

He recalled that four days after being caught the fishermen were brought before a court with the magistrate imposing fines of six months' imprisonment or EC3,000 dollars (one EC dollar; 37 cents U.S.) each, while ordering the confiscation of the boats, equipment, and catch.

He, however, said that government intervened and allowed Governor-General Sir Paul Scoon to waive the fines and permitted the boats and equipment to be returned to the Venezuelans without the catch.

"All of this was completed in the short period of two weeks. We would expect our Venezuelan friends to apply the same measure of speed in their handling of this present situation," Jones said.

Haiti

Msgr Romelus Message on Human Rights Week

FL0712222588 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network
in Creole 1200 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Excerpts] In a message issued yesterday [5 December], Msgr Willy Romelus, bishop of the diocese of the Grande Anse, said he was very pleased that the government has decided to decree a week of defense of human rights. He hopes that the government will hasten to turn words into reality. [passage omitted]

[Begin Romelus recording] We are very pleased, and we compliment them for it, because we know that human rights are really trampled in our country. [passage omitted] We will be complimenting them further after this week has passed; we hope they are going to take much action to show that they really respect human rights. Yes, we are happy, because the authorities have declared the week of 5-10 December human rights week. This authorizes us to expect all sectors concerned with justice to do (everything they can) to make sure that it will be clear to everyone awaiting justice that they are making gestures that really show that this is not just idle talk.

This gives us the hope that they are not just going to make pretty speeches. We hope they are not just going to hold big conferences and say pretty sentences. We are hoping that, on the contrary, they will show all (?nations) that when they talk they know what they're saying; and that when they say something, they do it. [end recording]

Msgr Romelus cited as examples of a lack of respect for human rights in Haiti the authorities' detention without trial of the soldiers arrested last 15 October and their failure to provide information regarding the soldiers' cases. Msgr Romelus said those holding these soldiers in prison are guilty of something and are showing that they do not respect the Constitution. He also said he expected the authorities to send the soldiers in question to court.

[Begin Romelus recording] Are they guilty of something or not? We don't know. However, those who have kept these soldiers in jail all this time without bringing them to trial are indeed guilty of something—and are showing that they have no respect whatsoever for the Constitution. Since this is human rights week, we harbor the hope that they are going to send these soldiers before a judge so that the soldiers can defend themselves.

Is it respecting human rights when they do not let the soldiers' relatives see them? What is the meaning of this?

Is it respecting human rights when the press—journalists, radio, and television—is not allowed to see the soldiers so that it can inform the Haitian people?

Are the soldiers alive, or have they died? I think the Haitian people have a right to know. [passage omitted]

Yes, as for the authorities, we are waiting to see what the week will bring, as far as proof of their goodwill goes. This is a week of hope. The peasants are surely going to be given satisfaction—they who complain so about the problems certain section chiefs and assistant section chiefs give them. We are very happy to hear that four section chiefs who were abusing the population in their areas have been fired. We are hoping this is going to happen everywhere section chiefs are causing problems. We also hope the section chiefs removed are not going to be replaced by others just as bad as them, or worse. Rather, we hope that the government will listen to the suggestions of the residents of the communal sections themselves and choose appropriate people for those positions. That is what the general-president said he was going to do. We hope he keeps his word. [passage omitted]

We also hope the authorities are going to prove that they really stand with the people—by giving them justice in everything, in every domain, all over Haiti. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Military Accused of Black Marketing Sugar

FL0712224488 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale
in Creole 1400 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Excerpts] There is a big problem at present in connection with sugar. There is a big shortage. We heard our correspondent in Jeremie tell us about how sugar was unobtainable there. Several other provinces have also complained about not being able to get any sugar. Well, the same problem exists in the capital. There is no sugar, and the cost of many products made with sugar, such as ice cream, has already risen. It is very difficult to find ice cream to buy at the customary price these days.

Sugar vendors are complaining bitterly about this. They say that the employees of the government purchasing agency are responsible for the situation. However, the employees of the government purchasing agency, like Pontius Pilate, wash their hands of this matter. They say they are not responsible for the sugar shortage in Haiti.

One of our reporters went to the government purchasing agency offices and talked to the sugar vendors [outside], who said that agency employees were black marketing sugar. The employees, however, said it was not them at all. Let's listen to a report by one of our reporters on this matter:

[Reporter] For the past few weeks, there has been a big rise in the price of sugar on all markets in Haiti. A sack of sugar that was being sold at \$30 at the beginning of November now costs \$60. This morning we went to the government purchasing agency's offices and interviewed

a few employees. They told us that the sack of sugar is still being sold for \$30 at the government purchasing agency's counters, but that a number of members of the Armed Forces from several different companies, as well as certain civilians, were buying up the slips [authorizing purchase of the goods] and reselling them to the sugar vendors. Also, for their part, certain vendors buy these slips from the military and certain civilians and then resell them farther down the line, to other vendors. That is why the other vendors, who are smaller operators, are having to pay as much as \$60 for a sack of sugar.

According to information we were given at the government purchasing agency, these members of the Armed Forces broke the window of the office of the deputy general director of the government purchasing agency while pressuring the vendors. They threw all the vendors out, and only they and the employees have a right to remain inside the building.

We went to the office of the deputy general director, where the broken window is, but the deputy general director was not there. The employees there did not wish to make any statements to us. The only thing they would say is to try to talk to the vendors outside if we wanted to know what was going on. We did.

The vendors told us what was going on at the government purchasing agency offices. Let's listen to some of them:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified speaker] That store is a mess. If the Haitian Government doesn't put a stop to these things, I think something awful might happen; you go to enter and the soldiers pull weapons on you, put on a show so that you will let them do it for you, so they can take care of their private business. If they don't put a stop to this, friend, I think something terrible might happen.

And that's not all! The bank seems to be an incompetent institution. People don't like this kind of thing at all, you know? I mean, everyone comes here openly to buy. Everyone is trying to make a living. There is a way the military can act to show people they are the forces of order; but the way they are acting, putting on a show, aiming Uzis and Galils at the people, and so forth—I mean, it's not fair!

[Reporter] They tell me that sugar is still being sold for \$30 here. What can you tell me about this?

[Speaker] Sugar is being sold for \$30, but there is a matter of (?purchase) slips being sold. A person goes to get a (?purchase) slip and pays \$15 for it.

[Reporter] What kind of people get these slips?

[Speaker] Both civilians and military. Both are involved. And then they go and resell the slip. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Why can you people never obtain a slip?

[Speaker] Well, friend, in order for us to obtain one, we, too, would have to have a Galil or an Uzi in our hands.

[Reporter] Who stationed those soldiers inside there?

[Speaker] Ah, friend! Everyone knows, now... [changes thought] While they are at the barracks, they suspect... [changes thought] The way the country is now... [changes thought] There is the matter of food. Everyone is seeking to defend his own interests. [end recording]

Jamaica

Prime Minister Calls for Meeting With Manley
FL0512191388 Bridgetown CANA in English
2027 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Dec 4, CANA—Prime Minister Edward Seaga has called for a meeting with opposition leader Micheal Manley in a bid to diffuse political tensions here that erupted in sporadic clashes last week. Seaga's proposal Saturday for the meeting followed an earlier call by Manley's People's National Party (PNP) for lower level officials to meet Tuesday to discuss the problem and to revive regular inter-party meetings. No date has yet been set for the Seaga-Manley summit, but Seaga said they should meet to discuss the problems and "to prepare a joint exhortation to the supporters of both parties to refrain from acts of violence."

Manley's supporters and Seaga's Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) are back on the campaign trail for the general election here after Hurricane Gilbert had turned attention to restoration work on the country's damaged agriculture, housing and utilities. With the politicians back on the hustling reported incidents of clashes—mainly minor—between rival supporters have increased. The PNP has reported that JLP supporters on Wednesday injured a motorcyclist and passengers in a bus travelling on a northern Jamaican road, mistaking them as being part of a PNP motorcade. Additionally, on Wednesday night three PNP vehicles returning to Kingston were stoned and one carrying the party's general secretary, Dr Paul Robertson, had its windshield broken.

The PNP also claimed that a JLP parliamentarian had organised a walkabout by his supporters in a north coast town at the same time the PNP motorcade was to pass through in an effort to create problems. However, allegations have also come from the JLP.

That party's chairman, Bruce Golding, said that PNP supporters in the six-day [as received] briefly commandeered a public workers department truck. The truck was damaged and abandoned, said Golding, who is also minister responsible for construction, under which the department falls.

But even before those incidents the political tension has been increasing. "...Unless decisive action is taken now this may escalate further and set the wrong tone for the

general elections," Seaga told Manley. "We must take all possible steps to prevent further escalation which can do great harm to the country and people," he added.

The current life of Parliament will end on January 9. After that Seaga can stay in office for a further three months if he utilises a grace period provided by the Constitution.

The opposition, which leads in public opinion polls, has been pressing for early elections, using as one of its arguments that an early vote would reduce the opportunities for violence.

In August Manley and Seaga signed an agreement and declaration on political conduct—dubbed here as the peace treaty—aimed at preventing the kinds of political violence that engulfed Jamaica during the bitter 1980 campaign when hundreds died. Additionally, a retired judge, James Keer, was appointed political ombudsman to police the code and investigate and apportion blame for political violence.

Keer's work was to be supplemented by a bi-partisan committee, which has long been in operation, which would attempt to deal with issues before they escalated and needed to be considered by the ombudsman. In a speech last week PNP Chairman P.J. Patterson complained about the infrequency of the meeting of the committee, making it virtually ineffective.

PNP General Secretary Robertson made a similar complaint in a letter to his JLP counterpart, Ryan Peralto, and suggested they meet Tuesday. Robertson said that the bi-partisan committee had not been meeting formally since an impasse when JLP and PNP members disagreed last month whether there was an agreement to call for a Seaga-Manley meeting to deal with the allocation money for hurricane relief work.

The PNP said that both sides needed to discuss solutions to problems before going to the ombudsman, and stop the sensationalisation of incidents which only served to inflame the situation.

Seaga did not specifically address the issue of the bi-partisan committee in the letter to Manley, but said that it would be useful to get an update from Keer on the state "of readiness of his office to carry out investigations in breaches of the political code of conduct."

Among the cases before Keer is one lodged by the JLP against Manley.

PNP Names New Constituency Candidate
FL2611021588 Bridgetown CANA in English
1700 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Nov 25, CANA—The opposition Peoples National Party (PNP) has named trade unionist, Emmanuel Cousins, as its replacement candidate for the Southeast Clarendon constituency in the next general election here.

Cousins replaced fellow National Workers Union (NWU) employee, Derrick Lambert, who was dropped by PNP leader Michael Manley this week for alleged misbehaviour and breach of the attitude expected by the party.

He was also suspended from his job as an NWU organiser.

Cousins will contest the Southeast Clarendon seat against deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Hugh Shearer.

Government To House 10,000 Homeless Families

*FL2411185888 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English
1130 GMT 24 Nov 88*

[Text] Jamaican Prime Minister Edward Seaga says his government plans to find new homes for 10,000 low-income families left homeless by Hurricane Gilbert. Mr Seaga made the promise on Tuesday when he visited about 53 families who have been living in the national stadium in Kingston since the hurricane struck in September.

The houses could be built in 10 weeks by using pre-assembled housing kits provided by the Ministry of Construction.

Renowned Lawyer Murdered in Kingston

*FL3011235488 Bridgetown CANA in English
1727 GMT 30 Nov 88*

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Nov 30, CANA—Distinguished West Indian lawyer and judge, Dr Aubrey Fraser, has been murdered in Jamaica, police here reported Wednesday. He was 67. The police information centre said it could not immediately provide details on the killing.

Fraser's body was apparently discovered with stab wounds in a bedroom at his suburban Kingston home by other members of his family early Wednesday. Family seemed to be unaware of anything untoward taking place before the discovery of the body.

Fraser was born in Barbados in 1921 of Trinidadian parents but grew up in Guyana. He practised law in Guyana after qualifying in London and was later a high court judge in both Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago. He was also a member of the Trinidad and Tobago Court of Appeal. In 1972, Fraser, who wrote extensive articles on the law in the Caribbean, was director of legal education at the University of the West Indies Norman Manley Law School here between 1972 and 1984.

At the time of the death, Fraser who had headed a commission that recommended the abolition of capital punishment here, was heading another commission probing a recent explosion at the Jamaica flour mill which killed three persons.

Fraser is survived by his wife, Aileen, and four children, two daughters and two sons.

Costa Rica

Foreign Minister Cited on Presidents' Summit
PA0712124588 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish
1830 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Text] Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto has said that an analysis of political issues is necessary to ensure compliance with the Esquipulas II agreement. He added:

[Begin recording] I believe that a political analysis is of great importance, because Esquipulas has two main aspects: The first concerns security issues, specifically the efforts to prevent the armed struggle from having a devastating effect on the peoples already suffering from it, and to prevent it from getting worse or spreading to other countries. This is a fundamental aspect on which several commitments were made, and these must be fulfilled. The agreement reached in Mexico largely satisfies those fundamental aspects. There is a second aspect to the Esquipulas agreement that broadens its scope, and that is the political aspect. [end recording]

Madrigal Nieto said he is not interested in blaming anyone at the meeting of Central American foreign ministers, but in promoting a democratic system in the area.

Madrigal Nieto said the Central American presidents have already confirmed their attendance at the summit scheduled for 15-16 January in El Salvador.

Upon returning from Mexico, Madrigal Nieto said his meetings with other foreign ministers and political leaders from various parts of the world were very positive for the region.

Madrigal Nieto announced that a technical commission representing the Central American foreign ministers will meet on 10-11 January to finalize the details for the foreign ministers' meeting, which will be held in Nicaragua on 12-13 January.

Border Patrols Coordinated With Nicaragua
PA0212134488 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish
0100 GMT 30 Nov 88

[Text] The Costa Rican Civil Police director and border post commanders today met with Sandinist officials. Juan Felix Barrantes, Civil Police director and commissioner; Rodolfo Jimenez, the Security Ministry's narcotics police director; and the border post commanders met with Sandinist officials at La Orqueta to coordinate patrols along the border.

Two Supreme Court Magistrates Retire
PA0612125388 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish
30 Nov 88 p 5-A

[Summary] Costa Rican Supreme Court Magistrates Eduardo Ching Murillo and Alvaro Carvajal Lizano have retired, while Magistrate Jesus Ramirez Quiros refuses to resign.

The three magistrates were mentioned in a report presented by the Legislative Assembly's drug-trafficking commission and were asked to resign. The first two magistrates vigorously denied the accusations but decided to retire for the benefit of the court; the third magistrate also rejected the accusations, but refused to resign.

El Salvador

Duarte To Leave Mexican Hospital 7 Dec
PA0712213288 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision
Television in Spanish 2012 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte will leave the Presidential General Staff Hospital today. His health has shown satisfactory improvement after receiving treatment from Mexican physicians. It has been reported that his digestive system was paralyzed by a bacteria that had been activated as a side effect of his chemotherapy treatment for liver cancer. The Salvadoran leader will remain in Mexico for 2 more days at the Salvadoran ambassador's residence. He will probably meet with President Carlos Salinas de Gortari to thank him for Mexico's hospitality.

Public Opinion Poll Results Released
PA0812020988 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL
in Spanish 1200 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Report by Javier Lacayo—passages within quotations marks recorded]

[Text] The latest poll by the University Public Opinion Institute indicates that 85 percent of the population over 18 years of age has decided to vote in next year's presidential election to replace Jose Napoleon Duarte. Regardless of party affiliation, the people voiced different reasons for voting. Perhaps the most important reason was that this is a way for the people to participate in solving the country's problems.

Dr (Ignacio Martin Baroc), director of the institute that carried out the poll, told us:

"When we asked why they were going to vote, the people gave various reasons, ranging from a sense of civic duty to fear of reprisals for not voting. Others vote simply in the hope that their candidates will win. On the whole, we see that in spite of this skepticism and the feeling that there will be fraud, the people will vote because they feel this is their only way of playing a part in solving the country's serious problems. Many say that at worst, their

votes will not count. There is an awareness that one cannot waste any possibility, no matter how remote, or any opportunity for solving some problems. Many people feel that peace might be achieved if they vote; they will vote just in case it does any good, as they say."

He also reported that the poll showed that a high percentage of people feared the results would be fraudulent—a belief that favors ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance], (Baroc) said.

"The reforms would favor the Christian Democratic Party [PDC]. ARENA might control the Legislative Assembly, and if the reforms go to the Electoral Council, this would then go against them. [sentence as heard] On the other hand, the results of the poll indicate a small margin between the candidates. We asked people whom they were going to vote for, regardless of whom they thought would win. But when we asked them whom they thought would win, the percentage for ARENA increased tremendously, reaching 45 percent. Practically half of the population feels that ARENA will win the elections, something that has concerned some of the candidates."

The institute will continue to measure the electoral process through polls scheduled for the next few months.

The overall result of the poll showed that Alfredo Cristiani, the ARENA candidate, is ahead in the polls to win the election, followed by the PDC candidate, Fidel Chavez Mena, five points behind.

Guatemala

URNG Leader Comments on Human Rights, War
PA0512160188 Havana International Service
in Spanish 0100 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Interview with Francisco Villagran, member of the URNG Political and Diplomatic Commission, by Pedro Martinez in Havana—live]

[Text] [Martinez] There is a subject of interest to Radio Havana listeners: the URNG's humanization of the war policy.

[Villagran] Right now, the Political and Diplomatic Commission, on directions from the URNG General Command, is making every effort to humanize the war situation in the country, especially by showing respect for the Geneva agreement, which Guatemala signed.

We are doing this because the repressive war the Army has been waging against the revolutionary movement and the population has reached levels of extreme cruelty, including indiscriminate bombings and the use of defoliants in conflict zones where civilians live.

There is the particular situation in which neither the Guatemalan Army nor the Government take any war prisoners. This makes us believe that the cruelty used against civilians and people involved in the armed conflict is a violation of human rights.

[Martinez] Does the URNG have any prisoners at this moment?

[Villagran] Yes. We have sent a note to the National Reconciliation Commission so it can handle the case of soldier Carlos Perez Lopez, who was captured wounded in the San Marcos region, near Galvez. He has been given much medical attention. Now that he has fully recovered, we are thinking about publicly returning this Guatemalan, and we are asking the Reconciliation Commission to take measures through the International Red Cross [IRC] to receive this man in the framework of the humanization process.

[Martinez] Will this be the first time the URNG will make this kind of contact with the IRC?

[Villagran] The IRC has had localization problems. There has been the argument that there is a National Red Cross. Contact with the IRC is possible if there is a presence of this organization that functions based on international agreements. Now that the IRC is present, the work is being facilitated.

The contact with the IRC is at the initiation level. However, I believe these contacts will be very useful in the future, especially for persons not involved in the armed conflict.

[Martinez] I think it would be useful if we close this interview with you repeating the name of the Guatemalan Army soldier who is being held by the URNG and whom the guerrilla forces are prepared to turn over to the IRC.

[Villagran] Yes. His name is Carlos Lopez Perez [as heard].

[Martinez] Thank you, Villagran.

Security Forces Seize Cocaine; 3 Arrested
PA0712023588 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE
in Spanish 4 Dec 88 p 2

[Summary] The security forces yesterday seized 365 kg of cocaine near Tiquisate. Two Colombians and a Venezuelan who were posing as journalists were arrested during the operation.

Honduras

Arrival of Nicaraguan Helicopter Confirmed

PA0712211388 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
2017 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 7 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—Honduran Foreign Affairs Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras today confirmed that a Sandinist Air Force helicopter gunship, said to be an "MI-25", "entered" Honduran airspace today and "later landed in Tegucigalpa."

Lopez did not say whether the its pilot had requested asylum in Honduras or whether he had entered Honduran airspace involuntarily.

Army Issues Communique

PA0812023188 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
0122 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 7 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—The Honduran Armed Forces today announced that an MI-25 helicopter from the Sandinist Air Force was forced to land in Tegucigalpa by Honduran fighter planes after it violated Honduran airspace.

A brief communique released by the Honduran Army today at 1730 (2330 GMT) does not make any reference to the desertion of the Nicaraguan pilot who arrived in Honduras this morning piloting a Soviet-made aircraft with registration no "FAS-355."

The Managua government officially reported the desertion, which it attributed to a CIA operation.

According to the Honduran military communique, Honduran fighter aircraft this morning "detected an unidentified aircraft within Honduran airspace. The aircraft was coming from Nicaragua" and the fighter planes forced it to land at the Hernan Acosta Mejia Military Air Base.

In the communique, the Honduran Army states that they presented a preliminary report on the case to Honduran President Jose Azcona and to the Honduran Foreign Ministry.

The communique adds that the Armed Forces will continue to carry out "all relevant investigations and procedures."

This afternoon, Nicaragua formally asked for the return of the aircraft and the extradition of pilot Edwin Estrada Leiva through a letter delivered to Honduran Ambassador to Nicaragua Colonel Efraim Gonzalez.

The helicopter, considered one of the EPS' most sophisticated, is currently in a hangar at the Hernan Acosta Mejia Air Base in Tegucigalpa, covered with a yellow canvas and guarded by units of the Honduran Armed Forces.

Reports on 'Border Confrontation' Denied

PA0812010188 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network
in Spanish 1100 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Interview with Colonel Manuel Enrique Suarez Benavides, Armed Forces public relations director, by unidentified reporter; date, place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Good morning, Colonel.

[Suarez] Good morning, the report [on a border confrontation] responds to a campaign that was prepared by the Sandinists. Approximately 15 minutes ago the Imevision [Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television] channel also aired the report. In short, I imagine that several media or channels are being used to air this report in Latin America and especially in the United States, where these channels have a clear signal. First, we believe that the Sandinist government is carrying out some sort of scheme. Second, it is trying to set the stage for Daniel Ortega's address to the UN General Assembly. Of course, it has been noticed that every time this person is about to make an appearance in the United States, a publicity and propaganda campaign is undertaken to enhance his image, to give him [word indistinct] so that when he delivers his speech he can portray himself as a martyr whose country is the victim of the United States.

There has not been any type of border confrontation, as the Sandinists claim. We do not have any border units that [word indistinct] and we have not asked for any aid from abroad, because there has not been any need for it. We state that the Sandinists will maintain their threats at all times, because their expansionist policy and their internal conflicts force them constantly to maintain [words indistinct] and an international awareness, in or out of the country, so that Honduras and the United States are always portrayed as the aggressor. The Armed Forces are conducting an investigation in the area. But we can affirm definitely that there has been no confrontation or clash and no threat exists, as the Sandinists have claimed in the international media.

[Reporter] Colonel, it is strange that at approximately 1700 hours, Honduran time, this report was aired both by the United States for Latin America and by the Mexican television channel for Europe, seeking to update an incident that we believe occurred several months ago when the Sandinists invaded Honduran territory and U.S. troops arrived. It is unusual that the gentlemen of Eco [news program on Mexico City XEW Television Network] are now trying to update a report, without giving a date, saying the president, through an initiative of the Armed Forces, has requested the cooperation of the U.S. Army to repel the Nicaraguan Sandinist invasion and has ordered the bombing of Sandinist troops in Honduran territory.

[Suarez] Yes, as of this time we have been trying to speak to Don Jacobo [not further identified] about this situation. It is quite unusual that Radio Eco, which has not been operating very long, should be airing reports that are half true, half impartial, and half objective. All except EL DIA have echoed it. This happens everywhere, even in the media. However, we hope to establish contact with him this morning to determine the origin of the report. The Honduran people must be aware what kind of government exists in Nicaragua—a government of lies that covers up facts, represses its people, and plays the martyr to enhance its image abroad at the expense of Honduras and other Latin American countries.

[Reporter] So, there has definitely been no deployment of Honduran troops to the border?

[Suarez] There has been no deployment of Honduran troops. There are always small border problems, which we have reported, and there have been exchanges of gunfire. But those problems are [word indistinct] that have occurred throughout the past year at the border are of a local, isolated nature. They are not of the proportions they have sought to give this alleged Honduran invasion of Nicaraguan territory.

[Reporter] Colonel, thank you for your kindness in granting us this interview to clarify the reports aired by those international television channels.

[Suarez] Thank you very much.

*** President Azcona Supports UN Peace Force**
32480035D Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish
1 Nov 88 p 34

[Text] President Jose Azcona yesterday denied that his government is pressuring the U.S. Administration to procure a commitment regarding the future of the 13,000 "contras" located in Honduran territory in exchange for new military facilities for Washington.

"This is misinformation," claimed Azcona, referring to various articles to this effect in the American press.

"It has never entered our mind to install U.S. military bases in Honduras against our people's will," he added in an exclusive interview granted to the ACAN-EFE agency.

Contradicting rumors in the Tegucigalpa press, the president declared that the "permanent installations" that the U.S. hopes to procure in the new protocols "would not be American, but rather, Honduran."

The president also appeared circumspect when he was asked to assess the prospects for the next summit meeting of Central American leaders set for 25-26 November in San Salvador.

"We shall be talking different languages," claimed Azcona, referring to the Managua government, which is maintaining a claim against Tegucigalpa based on the stay of some 13,000 "contras" on Honduran territory.

Displaying a map showing the "enclaves" proposed in Nicaragua for the return of the "contras" to their country, in the event that the pacification progresses, Azcona said that the "contras" presence in Honduras "is backed by the Sandinista government."

"A silver bridge for a fleeing enemy," remarked Azcona ironically, expressing the view that "Honduras is the only country that has totally fulfilled the Esquipulas accords."

Azcona also criticized "most of the countries, which have not been objective in seeking solutions for Central America's problems," particularly the European Economic Community (EEC) which, he claimed, "was allocating 50 percent of its aid to Nicaragua until recently."

The Honduran president cited the proposal for the creation of an "international peacekeeping force," suggested by his country recently in the United Nations, which would consist of Spain, Canada, and the FRG, as "the last resort left to us."

He regarded as "very important" the role that Spain could play in this "international force," which he described as a military force assigned to guard the borders between Honduras, Nicaragua, and El Salvador.

*** Human Rights Violation Investigated by Army**
32480035A Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish
18 Oct 88 p 36

[Text] The Armed Forces at the highest level are investigating the complaint filed by the Daniel Sarmiento, National Party leader in the department of Olancho, to the effect that he was "brutally beaten" by personnel from the 16th Battalion, according to an announcement made yesterday by a military spokesman.

Sarmiento claimed to have been captured in the village of EL Vijao, south of Juticalpa, Olancho, at midnight last Friday, by about 200 members of that military unit, who released him after having tortured him on charges of being a member of a guerrilla column.

The military spokesman, Juan Sierra Fonseca, remarked that the complaint is being investigated by the high command; he added that, based on this probe, a more "precise" report will be released to the news media at the proper time.

Sierra Fonseca noted that the situation which has arisen in that area is "very disturbing," and hence the Armed Forces will submit an official report concerning it.

The military spokesman announced that, because of this situation, Army troops "have gone about combing certain sections of Olancho, owing to the presence of some subversive cells that have reentered the country."

Sarmiento, who is a National Party candidate for the Juticalpa mayor's office, also charged that his accusers had linked that political institution's presidential candidate, Rafael Leonardo Callejas, as well as the candidate for deputy, Porfirio Lobo Sosa, with subversive movements.

*** Editorial on 'Incident'**

32480035B Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish
19 Oct 88 p 1

[EL HERALDO editorial: "Callejas a Guerrilla?"]

[Text] An unusual incident just occurred in Olancho, when troops assigned to the 16th Battalion, under the command of Colonel Luis Alonso Carranza, brutally attacked Daniel Sarmiento, the National Party's candidate for mayor of Juticalpa; its military personnel apparently linked Rafael Leondardo Callejas and the injured party, as well as Deputy Porfirio Lobo Sosa, with guerrilla groups. The one filing the complaint was cattleman Sarmiento, who was captured by 200 soldiers in the village of El Vijao, south of Juticalpa, and released last Sunday. They subjected Sarmiento to "violent interrogations," after having asked him if he knew whether Callejas was a guerrilla fighter or had dealings with subversives. Sarmiento claimed to have been "morally damaged, because I am a man dedicated to work." According to the military, "I, Rafael Leonardo Callejas, and Porfirio Lobo Sosa, have been forming guerrilla groups in this areas." He subsequently added: "The military definitely accuses Callejas and Lobo Sosa of being the intellectual force behind the terrorism here, because that was the only reason that they abducted me." Gracious, Rafael Leonardo Callejas a guerrilla! If this is the behavior of those commanding an Armed Forces battalion in Olancho, before long the military will be getting rid of Monsignor Santos and all the conservatives in this country.

Carlos Flores Wins PLH Presidential Nomination
PA0612163888 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video
in Spanish 1200 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Carlos Roberto Flores has been chosen by the Liberal Party of Honduras [PLH] as its presidential candidate in next year's elections. He held an important news conference yesterday during which he announced his decision to unite the party to face next year's general elections.

Flores said he is satisfied with the support he has received from President Jose Azcona and Dr Ramon Villeda Bermudez. Flores said he will support all the actions the government may carry out in favor of the people that are in line with party doctrines.

Flores said he is optimistic about his possibilities to win the elections, in which he will face Rafael Leonardo Callejas, the single candidate of the National Party of Honduras.

The PLH candidate says he does not view himself as the government's candidate because, in his opinion, he is not responsible for any of the actions carried out by previous PLH governments. [passage omitted]

*** Liberal Party Leader Addresses Assembly**
32480035C Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish
31 Oct 88 p 3

[Text] San Pedro Sula—In delivering his address at the National Assembly of his political movement held last Saturday afternoon in this city, Ramon Villeda Bermudez commented: "Honduras has always undergone crises, but each crisis is a challenge, and the men who accept the challenge and overcome the crisis are the ones who deserve to govern the nation."

Villeda Bermudez, who was nominated by over 5,000 Liberals as a candidate for the presidency of the Republic, outlined his government plan in the space of an hour.

He remarked that throughout his political campaign he had made very few promises, but said: "Today I pledge that all the milk given to us by the European Economic Community (EEC), the United States, Canada, and other nations of the world will not be sold, but will be given free to the poor children of Honduras."

Villeda Bermudez was thereby alluding to certain public officials who, under the last government of Roberto Suazo Cordova, used their influence to "suckle" the milk that had been donated by the EEC and certain friendly nations, to the detriment of the country's malnourished children.

Country of Unemployed

After describing Honduras as a country of unemployed, he claimed that at present 400,000 fellow countrymen are jobless, 300,000 are underemployed, 200,000 work only during harvest periods, and 100,000 are unemployable, because "they have not had sufficient food and their neurons have not developed for learning."

He asserted that this is a country in which the annual income of the Honduran is one of the lowest in Latin America; he earns only an average of 1,260 lempiras a year, totaling "about 100 lempiras a month, and now that isn't even enough for washing clothes, with the current cost of living."

In his remarks, Bermudez pledged to create in his administration the half work day (4 hours) to benefit youth and women, so that they might cope with the family's economic problems.

In the agrarian area, the politician declared that for over 25 years there has been talk of agrarian reform, but that the peasant is still living "on hopes."

Nevertheless, he emphasized that agrarian reform would be given an impetus during his government term: "We will sit down and examine it with the peasants, so as to give a reminder that we promulgated it in 1962, but that those telling us that we don't know how to govern shelved it until 1971."

Away With Customs Thieves

Villeda Bermudez claimed that there would be administrative and tax reform in his government, but that, "tax reform doesn't mean more taxes, because so long as the people are not earning more money, they cannot withstand additional tax burdens. Rather than new taxes, Honduras needs more honest men, so that the government's money will not be lost in customs."

In another portion of his speech, Villeda Bermudez warned that Honduras cannot pay its enormous foreign debt. "It's not our fault that the international credit agencies have given millions to the de facto governments which put us in debt up to our ears. Poor administrators are as much to blame for the foreign debt of Honduras as those who lent the money to us for projects that were not a priority. And, in that foreign debt, the greatest pain, the largest debt, and the greatest shame is the 700 million of CONADI [National Investment Corporation]."

He also expressed opposition to war, because it can only be waged by rich countries which produce weapons and recover their economies. He gave a reminder that when Honduras had a conflict with El Salvador in 1969, in 72 hours of war "we committed the 5-year budget, and it is an irresponsible act for anyone to even think of war."

Appeal to President Jose Azcona

Villeda Bermudez remarked: "Honduran foreign policy must be clearly evident to the people. We request that our president explain to us the purposes of the third protocol, whether the United States or the Honduran Government asked for it," noted Villeda Bermudez.

"We also want to know how long the allies and friends are going to stay here; we want them for security reasons, but we don't want to compromise our sovereignty."

He went on to say: "In the area of foreign policy, we also want to remind Honduras that the first country to define its policy was the Government of Honduras with the Suazo Cordova administration, when it talked about internationalizing peace. That was also done by this Azcona government, in a more brilliant statement put forth by Oscar Arias; but we had no credibility, and we must retrieve credibility so as to have the respect of all the nations of the world," the presidential hopeful suggested.

Agriculture Agreement Signed With Canada

PA0812032388 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish
3 Dec 88 p 5

[Summary] Honduras and Canada signed an agreement yesterday providing 27 million lempiras for an agricultural development project in Guayape valley, Olancho Department.

According to the 5-year agreement, the Canadian government will donate 22.6 million lempiras toward the project, while Honduras will provide the remaining 4.4 million lempiras. The project will involve programs in irrigation, technical assistance for producers, research, credit, and institutional and community development.

The Honduran Natural Resources Ministry and the Canadian International Development Agency will be in charge of providing financial resources, technicians, and equipment for the project.

Nicaragua

Pilot Deserts to Honduras in Helicopter

PA0712182088 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
1724 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 7 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—According to official Honduran sources, a Sandinist pilot deserted to Honduras this morning in an MI-25 helicopter.

The Honduran Armed Forces have neither confirmed nor denied the pilot's desertion. He was reportedly to have landed at the "Hernan Acosta Mejia" military base in the extreme south of Tegucigalpa between 0715 and 0720.

No further details on the desertion are known yet.

Communique Confirms Defection

PA0712194788 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish
1918 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Communique issued by the Defense Ministry's Public and Foreign Relations Directorate on 7 December in Managua]

[Text] 1. Sandinist Air Force Captain Edwin Estrada Leyva, by order of the CIA, stole an MI-25 helicopter, registration number 355, at 0607 on 7 December.

2. The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry is negotiating with the Honduran Government. According to preliminary reports, the helicopter stolen by the CIA terrorist landed at the Hernan Acosta Mejia Air Base. The negotiations are aimed at having both the stolen helicopter and the terrorist returned to Nicaragua.

Managua, 7 December 1988

For a Decent Peace, Free Fatherland or Death

Defense Ministry's Public and Foreign Relations Directorate

'Nandaime Prisoners' Reportedly Released

PA0712224788 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
2208 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Managua, 7 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—According to a source of the Democratic Coordinating Board (CDN), which groups several opposition organizations, the 10 "Nandaime prisoners" arrested on 10 July were released on bail today for humanitarian reasons.

The 10 opposition leaders released today were arrested in Nandaime, 50 km south of Managua, along with 28 other people during an antigovernment demonstration that ended in violent clashes with the police.

The released prisoners include: CDN President Carlos Huembes, CDN Secretary Roger Guevara, Social Christian leader Agustin Jarquin, and Conservative Party leader Miriam Arguello.

Fanor Avendana, one of the lawyers defending the prisoners, told ACAN-EFE that the criminal code allows the prisoners to be released on "probation," despite having been sentenced to 3 years in prison.

The release takes place 20 days after a Nicaraguan court confirmed the arrest warrant for 13 of the "prisoners," acquitted 16 others, and released 9 on bail.

Throughout the legal proceedings, which the defense counsels described as a "political" process, the lawyers maintained that their clients were "innocent."

The release of the Nandaime prisoners was repeatedly demanded by the local opposition and by many European and Latin American countries. [passage omitted]

'Sources' on Cuts in Health, Education Budgets

PA0712144488 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO
in Spanish 5 Dec 88 pp 1,8

[Excerpt] Unofficial Nicaraguan Government sources have told EL NUEVO DIARIO that the education and health systems will be critically affected next year because their budgets will be cut by 40 percent. Even though no figures were given about the health sector, it was learned that university education will be paid by the state but the subsidies to Nicaraguan universities—the cheapest in Latin America—will be ended.

In other words, high school graduates will have to pay tuition at the universities, which will have to support themselves on their own income.

Our sources added that several universities—including UCA [Central American University], UPOLI [Nicaraguan Polytechnical University], UNI [expansion

unknown], and others—will be closed down. Instead, a single alma mater will be created at the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua (UNAN).

The measures will also affect administrative personnel, which will be limited to a rector and a vice rector. The official who revealed the information to this newspaper stated that subsidies to private schools will be suspended and public schools will have to pay for textbooks and notebooks, which previously were free.

Public primary and high school education will apparently still be free, but private schools—and kindergarten—will not.

The measures will be so drastic that the construction of schools will be halted, inefficient teachers will be fired, and funds will probably be invested only in repairing schools damaged in the war.

Also, students who wish to become professionals will have to choose between three careers—medicine, agriculture, and education—given the tension caused by the lack of specialists in these fields. [passage omitted]

Ortega Responds to Report

PA0712182988 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television
Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] President Daniel Ortega confirmed today that the health and education budgets will not be affected despite the nation's economic difficulties.

[Begin Ortega recording] Despite the serious difficulties we are experiencing, we have an unwavering commitment to the people. This means that we will never fail to provide direct attention to the people's education and health. The fact that the Education Ministry's standard functions have been reduced does not mean we are going to close schools and universities. Whoever makes such statements is irresponsible.

The fact that we are attempting to increase centralization of the Health Ministry's standard functions does not mean we are going to close down health centers or hospitals. [end recording]

The president made this statement at a meeting with Swedish artists at the Cesar Augusto Silva Convention Center. Also present at the event were Sergio Ramirez, Nicaraguan vice president, and Rosario Murillo, general secretary of the Sandinist Association of Cultural Workers.

President Ortega presented awards to 15 Scandinavian technicians in recognition of their work at the Ruben Dario Peoples' Theater, where they installed audio equipment, lights, and air conditioning.

Thousands Seek Canadian Visas To Emigrate

PA0712161388 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish
2 Dec 88 pp 1, 12

[Summary] Thousands of Nicaraguans went to the Canadian Consulate yesterday requesting information on travel to what many referred to as "the promised land." In recent years, Canada has become the ideal refuge for Nicaraguans desperately escaping the country's overwhelming crisis. The trip was easy because a plane ticket was the only requirement. A visa was not necessary.

However, on Tuesday, 29 November, airlines received a telex from the Canadian Government demanding a visa for anyone wishing to emigrate to that country.

Everything is not lost for Nicaraguans who are eager to go to Canada. Emigration to that country continues, but it is controlled from the Canadian Embassy in Costa Rica. Therefore, all those interested had to fill out a preapplication form and turn it in yesterday before 1800. Although there were no official figures, the person in charge of handing out and receiving the forms disclosed that more than 5,000 forms were received.

Communist Party Leader Views Political Scene

PA0712153788 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish
1130 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Interview with Communist Party leader Ariel Bravo Lorio by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Bravo] We have scheduled our first activity for 13 December which, incidentally, marks our party's 18th anniversary. We have planned nationwide party meetings to commemorate this event.

The high point of our celebration will be our customary 13 December meeting with all of Nicaragua's principal political party leaders. We also want to invite important members of other segments of Nicaraguan society so that our meeting will serve to improve the political atmosphere in Nicaragua. We hope our meeting will provide a chance to exchange opinions and discuss the nation's serious problems and serve as a means of improving understanding among the various groups that comprise the national political spectrum. In addition, on 18 December we will have a meeting of the 14 political parties with the CPT [Permanent Workers' Congress] to celebrate that the parties have been working together for 1 year. This celebration is well-deserved because the parties have survived all sorts of difficulties, such as divisions among the various parties and the government's unsuccessful attempts to break them up. That alone is very important. The speakers at this event will include members of the 14 parties, who will not be expressing generalized views; instead, they will present their own particular interpretations of the nation's problems and of the meaning of the anniversary that we are celebrating.

[Reporter] More and more people believe that difficult times lie ahead for Nicaragua. The situation in Nicaragua cannot go on; the economic crisis is worsening. Everyone clearly realizes that Nicaragua needs a social consensus that will lead to resuming the tasks of recovery and participation. Many of the political groups seem to be divided. Is it possible they will be able to hold a dialogue with the government and actually reach solutions?

[Bravo] I think so. Even though what you say is true, those divisions can be put aside and the parties can reach a unified position when the time comes to hold a dialogue and take a united stand. As we have remarked, we have been working together for 1 year, and yet there are still internal political divisions within the majority of the 14 political parties. I think the urgent need to solve Nicaragua's serious problems will force the parties to share a common language and a common position. Of course, the parties that are not interested in solving the nation's problems—the fickle parties, which are trying to negotiate positions or sinecures with the government—will make it very difficult for us to find a common ground. However, we must not discard the possibility that we may share some common points here and there.

In conclusion, I think Nicaragua's peaceful opposition has reached a stage of development where it is capable and qualified to voice solutions for the nation's problems. Everyone fully understands that without internal political solutions, Nicaragua's problems cannot be solved.

Panama

Solis Palma Support Message to Alfonsin Cited

PA0712201488 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE
PANAMA in Spanish 7 Nov 88 p C-9

[Text] Panamanian President Manuel Solis Palma has sent a message to Argentine President Raul Alfonsin expressing his concern about incidents occurring in that nation and expressing his government's support of the measures adopted to overcome the crisis.

President Solis Palma's message states that "we are closely following with concern the incidents affecting your country today" and offer at all times the steadfast support of the government that I head and of the Panamanian people, who attach primary importance to the strengthening of democratic institutions.

The presidential message concludes by expressing the wish that Argentine democracy will emerge strengthened from this difficult test.

Ambassador Boyd's Speech to OAS Group Noted

PA0612164088 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE
PANAMA in Spanish 5 Dec 88 p C-11

[Speech by Aquilino Boyd, ambassador to the OAS, at the OAS Permanent Council in Washington on 30 November]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The search of collective solutions seems to be opening up, though slowly, in the face of regional and world problems.

Panama believes the continuity and consistency of foreign policy positions are fundamental attributes of a country that hopes to deserve the respect of the international community.

The basic instruments of the OAS, the UN Charter, and the most important principles of international law have been the guidelines of our foreign policy. We will never grow tired of reaffirming our determination to support the principles of self-determination of our peoples, non-intervention in the internal affairs of other states, respect for nations' territorial integrity, equality of rights among sovereign states, and friendship and cooperation with all countries of the world interested in maintaining international peace and security.

Panama is a country that has traditionally respected all political, economic, and social systems that other nations have the right to implement.

In the international area, Panama has always voiced its opposition to colonialism, apartheid, and other forms of discrimination.

Panama has participated in the search for peace in the most delicate conflict in the Western Hemisphere: the Central American conflict. Our years of efforts within the Contadora and Support Groups are evidence of this. When the Central American countries approved a process to establish a firm and lasting peace in the area by signing the Esquipulas II accord, we immediately supported it.

The participation of the OAS secretary general and the Catholic Church in peace efforts in Central America makes us feel optimistic about the future of these peoples of America who, as Baena Soares has said, "are rightfully entitled to liberty, democracy, and general well-being."

Panama requires peace and calm to bring about the progress desired by our peoples and to avoid destitution; furthermore, we believe that as partners for almost 100 years with the wealthiest nation in the universe, we are rightfully entitled to achieve development and not backwardness. With the signing of the Torrijos-Carter Panama Canal Treaties, we showed in 1977 that a small country and a superpower are capable of reaching a peaceful, rather than violent, solution.

Our canal partners cannot accuse us of ever having failed to comply with the treaties; unfortunately, we cannot say the same of them.

The true U.S. interest in the Panama Canal should be to keep our canal open to all world maritime fleets, to allow the people of Panama and its Defense Forces to continue protecting it from national and international disputes, and to ensure that it will continue to operate efficiently while making a reasonable profit.

I have extended myself in my remarks on the Panama Canal because I know this is a topic of interest to all of you. In 1987, ships flying Latin American and Caribbean flags paid \$97.3 million in canal transit tolls. This represents approximately 30 percent of the total paid for the right to transit the canal.

With the election of George Bush to the U.S. Presidency, new opportunities are opened for reestablishing the good relations that should exist between Panama and the United States. These good relations, based on mutual respect, would strengthen peace, democracy, and trust and enable the prompt economic recovery and development that our people, today tormented by the unfair sanctions, need.

We still believe in the U.S. people's sense of "fair play."

My country's high-ranking authorities are committed to holding elections on 7 May 1989.

We are going to find a Panamanian solution to the political crisis we are experiencing. This Panamanian solution will be the result of free, honest, and fair elections that will bring about the Panamanian democracy we all want, without the intervention of other nations in our domestic affairs.

Speaking before the OAS Legal Commission at the 18th period of sessions held in San Salvador on 16 November, the Panamanian delegation stated: "Panama, faithful to the guidelines that govern the OAS and as a state that has signed the American Convention on Human Rights, does not only reiterate its principles regarding human rights, but has also extended an invitation to the Inter-American Human Rights Committee to visit Panama in February 1989 and verify that these principles are being respected."

The inter-American legal system has been strengthened with the ratification of the Cartagena protocol, a document Panama signed a few days ago. The protocol includes the new guidelines that were needed to give the OAS Charter a boost.

The main topic on our economic agenda is the search for a solution to the problem of the foreign debt, which affects the financial situation of all the countries represented here. There is no doubt that by using huge sums of money to cover our debt commitments we are strongly affecting our people's social and economic development programs.

We fully identify with all movements aimed at recognizing the equal rights of women.

To avoid delving into every topic of interest to our organization, please allow me to say that today, as yesterday, my delegation will work hand in hand with you in the search for constructive and practical solutions that will contribute to the proper operation of the general secretariat and well-being of all the countries that compose this organization.

My delegation will not rest for a single minute. It will continue to talk to each and every member of this organization to explain that the main cause for the terrible crisis affecting Panama lies in the lack of trust the United States has introduced into my country's economic system. The United States did this with its false charges, implementation of unjust sanctions, violations of the 1977 canal treaties, and its ridiculous and absurd security measures that should be reserved solely for the most dangerous enemies. The United States is doing all this in violation of the most basic rules of international law.

This is not the way a canal partner, which has given so much to the United States and the rest of the world, should be treated. May God guide and make them see their mistakes. I pray this will happen before the little trust in the noble people of the United States that still remains among my people runs out and turns into despair and violence. Such a situation, stirred up by the extreme left, would soon end the free enterprise system and freedoms truly existent in Panama even though this truth is being questioned by the political opposition and their followers.

Fortunately, our nationalism has not succumbed to the extreme left or the extreme right.

Panama is a nation that wants peace, and its current leaders are responsible people. We will always be open to dialogue, cooperation, and good understanding. Never forget that Panama is a Bolivarian country and that as such it will continue to support the economic, social, and political integration of our peoples, because our strength lies in this union. Thank you.

Washington, D.C., 30 November 1988

Opposition Leaders Accused of Money Laundering
PA0712043488 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish
6 Dec 88 p 1

[Text] Alfredo Ramirez, president of the Panamanian Molirena [Nationalist Liberal Republican Alliance] Party, was the lawyer in charge of all affairs dealing with the closing of the First Inter-Americas Bank, S.A., which was a bank used for laundering money derived from drug trafficking. This bank was seized by the National Banking Commission on 15 April 1985. As you may remember, the officials of this bank are well-known members of the opposition: Jaime Alberto Arias, brother of the president of the Panamanian Christian Democratic Party, Carlos Lucas Lopez Tejada, Mario Julio Galindo Heurtemate, Guillermo Andreve, Tomas H. Herrera, and Rogelio Cruz.

On 17 July 1985, the then manager of the First Interamericas Bank, which was owned by Colombian drug trafficker Gilberto Rodriguez, gave a special power to the law firm of Alfaro, Ferrer, and Ramirez, whose offices are located at

No 33 Federico Boyd Avenue in Panama City. In these offices the firm received personal notes asking the firm to represent the First Interamericas Bank, S.A. in the judicial process to close the bank.

The transaction to close the bank, in which the firm of Molirena President Alfredo Ramirez participated, included the handling of over \$40 million. That sum came from the laundering of drug money.

PPA Leader Downplays 'Division' Within Party
PA0712122788 Panama City Circuito RPC Television
in Spanish 2300 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] Authentic Panamenist Party [PPA] supporters, led by [PPA Secretary General] Hildebrando Nicosia, yesterday elected the new party directorate for San Miguelito District. Ovidio Reyes was chosen as the new district director. This appointment comes at a time of division within the party.

In this regard, Nicosia referred to the PPA's current internal situation as follows:

[Begin Nicosia recording] I am pleased to see that, for the first time, Circuito RPC Television has given me an opportunity to tell its audience the truth.

There have never been any problems in the PPA's membership or leadership. The only thing that has happened is that a divisive group tried to gain control of the party when [former PPA leader] Arnulfo Arias died. The other principal or assistant directorate members have taken the necessary disciplinary measures to remove these members from their positions to prevent them from acting arbitrarily in the future. That is all.

We hope that at next week's convention, which is scheduled for 11 December in Anton, it will become clear once and for all that the PPA does not surrender easily and is not subordinated either to the oligarchy or to the military. We will follow the line Arnulfo Arias set for us through more than 50 years of struggling for a better Panama. [end recording]

Political Leaders Seeking New Alliance

PA0712135388 [Editorial Report] Panama City MEDIODIA in Spanish on 6 December on pages 10 and 11 reports on meetings between leaders of various political parties seeking to create a new alliance for next year's elections.

The first MEDIODIA report says "the first contacts to create a coalition independent of the National Democratic Union (UNADE) and the Opposition Democratic Alliance (ADO) were held between Oscar Navarro, an Authentic Panamenist Party [PPA] candidate for vice president, and Eduardo Rios, president of the Democratic Party of Workers."

The report adds that "it has been learned that talks will be held with Republican Party President Jorge Young [a dissident faction not loyal to President Eric Arturo Delvalle] in order to incorporate that party into the new coalition, initially known as the People's Democratic Alliance [Alianza Democratica Popular] (ADEPO)."

The same report says legislator Justo Cortez of Molirena [National Liberal Republican Movement] admitted that he has held "indirect talks" with PPA leaders in an attempt to unite the divided factions within that party.

In a separate report on page 11, MEDIODIA reports that Carlos Duque, president of the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) did not rule out the possibility of an alliance with leftist political forces because his party is

seeking to establish an alliance of nationalist unity and therefore "cannot exclude" leftist, center, or rightist groups that agree with the party's platform.

Comptroller General Reports on Revenues
PA0812033688 Panama City MEDIODIA in Spanish
5 Dec 88 p 2

[Summary] According to a report issued by the Comptroller General's office, the Panamanian Government received revenues of only 442,824 balboas during the first 9 months of 1988. That figure is 50 percent less than government revenues for the same period last year.

The report added that the value of manufacturing industry production decreased by approximately 100,000 balboas during the second quarter of 1988. The figure for the second quarter of 1988 was 268,804 balboas, compared with 398,488 balboas in the same period last year.

Argentina

Alfonsin Praises Army; Thanks Private Sector
PY0712011688 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora
Color Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 7 Dec 88

[“Excerpt of speech by President Raul Alfonsin to members of the Argentine Construction Union on 7 December, upon closing the international seminar on investment, at Plaza Hotel in Buenos Aires—recorded]

[Text] President of the Argentine Construction Union, members of its executive board, ladies and gentlemen:

First of all I would like to refer to the speech delivered by Engineer San Martino. I want to express my agreement with what he said and my sincere recognition of the attitude of the national business sector toward the events we just experienced. It was an attitude that should be recognized by everybody, because that sector came out, not passively but actively, in defense of the nation's institutions. I believe that we have found that attitude in all sectors.

This is why I believe that all sectors should regret that there are people who tried to distort the events we just experienced and the solutions we found, for the purpose of political chicanery. Such distortion is contrary to the efforts of many people in the country, and contrary to the will of a people ready to take responsibility for choosing the path to the future.

There is no doubt that we have found solutions; we have found solutions without deaths. Good Lord, what would have been said had thousands of people been killed? There is also talk about conditions for the solutions, but there were no conditions.

I was delayed in coming here because I just met with the chiefs, generals, and colonels of the Argentine Army. I asked them that when they return to their garrisons, they convey the president's recognition of the Argentine Army's overwhelming willingness to serve their institutions.

I reiterated to them what I said after my latest trip to Europe, where I indicated that we should be grateful to them because, despite their many dissatisfactions, they were strengthening the constitution, putting their swords at the service of their institutions, and working to strengthen Argentine democracy. We should be grateful that they have all understood that this is the only way to build the nation that our forefathers wanted, a nation that has recovered its international prestige, a nation that uses its potential, a nation whose men and women are willing to define their future and to make it great with their daily work.

This is how the Argentine people are building democracy. We should be thankful to everyone and especially to those who have suffered in this stage of the process.

Once again I would like to recognize the national business sector for its attitude. The Argentine people have begun a new stage in which we are going to continue with discussions which may be angry, but which are aimed at finding solutions. No one is going to tell us what we have to do; we are going to say it ourselves. [applause]

Dante Caridi Reportedly Requests Retirement
PY0712214488 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS
in Spanish 2100 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 Dec (NA)—A congressional source has said Army Chief of Staff Dante Caridi has submitted his request for retirement to President Raul Alfonsin.

According to the UCR lawmaker, the president told Caridi that he would prefer if Caridi stayed in his post until May.

“That would be impossible,” Caridi reportedly said. According to the UCR deputy who made this disclosure, the president flatly stated: “I will pick the Army chief of staff.” Alfonsin was thus referring to possible “candidates” proposed by the military rebels.

To Remain Army Chief
PY0712223088 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
2211 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 Dec (TELAM)—President Raul Alfonsin today reiterated to members of the Army High Command that, in line with the prestige of the Government and of the Armed Forces, the recent military conflict was solved without granting any conditions.

Caridi is the Army chief of staff and he will retain his post.

Presidential spokesman Jose Ignacio Lopez made these remarks to newsmen at Government House following a meeting between President Alfonsin and the military leadership.

Caridi, Army Discuss Military Uprising, Outcome
PY0712161388 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
1309 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 Dec (TELAM)—Army Chief of Staff General Jose Dante Caridi today discussed the situation within the Army and the appointments of new chiefs and officers with the Army High Command.

The meeting which started at 1000 GMT at the Libertador Building situation room, was attended by all senior generals and colonels who are commanding troops in the country.

The first to speak were the corps commanders, the director of military institutes, and the Army inspector general. They informed the High Command of the situation in their respective areas and the development of the 1 December crisis.

Moreover, Caridi informed his subordinates of the meeting he held with President Raul Alfonsin, Defense Minister Horacio Jaunarena, Air Force Commander Ernesto Crespo, and Navy Commander Ramon Arosa. He discussed the Army uprising with these officials.

Cardidi also reported on the behavior of some Army chiefs and officers. General Mario Candido Diaz, chief of the 1st Personnel Department, detailed the investigations being carried out and the transfers that will take place within the Army.

Legal Advisor General Luis Maria Borla discussed the uprising of the military chiefs, officers, and noncommissioned officers and the punishment that may be dealt to those who participated in the uprising. He also discussed the investigations carried out by the military courts to clarify the matter.

It is likely that General Oscar Cardoso will refer to the social reactions on the incident and the activities carried out by certain groups who tried to disrupt public order near Villa Martelli.

General Isidro Caceres, commander of the 1st Armored Cavalry Brigade based in Tandil, will also give a briefing on activities he carried out in keeping with orders from his superiors during the military uprising and on the meetings he held with rebel leader Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin until he surrendered.

The discussion on new assignments, promotions, and transfers has been postponed until the situation within the Army is cleared up.

Angeloz Suggests Panamanian Support of Seineldin
PY0712221088 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
2031 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 Dec (TELAM)—Eduardo Angeloz, presidential candidate of the Radical Civic Union, said this afternoon that if he were the one to decide, he would interrupt diplomatic relations with Panama until an investigation has been conducted to completely clarify whether the Panamanian Government had any participation in Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin's departure from Panama.

In a conversation with reporters in the hotel where he is staying in this city, Angeloz said: I believe that Col Seineldin had support in Panama. It is very difficult to do something like that without the consent of General Noriega, the strong man of Panama.

He added: If it were up to me to decide, I would interrupt relations with the Panamanian regime. There is real suspicion about this regime's participation in the key issue of drug trafficking in the continent. This regime has also been suspended from the Group of Eight because of the confusing circumstances surrounding the overthrow of former President Eric Delvalle.

Angeloz said: I believe that Argentine democracy has been attacked and I believe that we should be hard with those who have shown doubtful behavior in the events that shook the country, therefore I would like to make things clear: I say that I would interrupt relations with the Panamanian Government until this issue is totally clarified.

Although Angeloz advocates interrupting relations he concluded by saying: I would like to say emphatically that under no circumstance would I stop supporting the spirit of the agreement signed by Carter and Torrijos regarding Panamanian sovereignty over the Panama Canal.

Inquest for 6th Infantry Regiment Incidents
PY0712212188 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS
in Spanish 1935 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 Dec (NA)—The Army General Staff has announced the beginning of an inquest into the incidents that occurred in the 6th Infantry Regiment. Following is the text of the communique:

"General Alfredo Dalton, commander of the 10th Infantry Brigade, has ordered an inquest into the responsibility of the ranking officers of the 6th Infantry Regiment for the incidents that recently affected the discipline of that unit.

"The ranking officers are: Major Abete, Captain [words indistinct], First Lieutenant Gandulfo, First Lieutenant Cervetti, First Lieutenant Corbella, First Lieutenant Atozqui, and the rest of the regiment's officers and noncommissioned officers."

Aldo Rico Transferred to Magdalena Prison
PY0712171188 Buenos Aires Domestic Service
in Spanish 1500 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] This morning former Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico was taken from the 601st Air Defense Artillery Group headquartered in Mar del Plata to the Magdalena Military Prison, according to spokesmen of the Mar del Plata unit.

The sources indicated that Rico was transferred due to security concerns. The leader of the Easter Week and Monte Caseros military uprisings was transferred from Magdalena to the air defense group in Mar del Plata on 3 December.

Government 'Not Planning' Popular Plebiscite
PY0612135888 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
1102 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 6 Dec (TELAM)—Interior Secretary Ricardo Gil Saavedra has affirmed that the government is not planning on holding a popular plebiscite, at the same time as the 14 May 1989 presidential elections, on an amnesty for Army officers who committed abuses during the antisubversive war.

Gil Saavedra explained that UCR Senator Ricardo Laferriere's statement that a plebiscite might be held was only a personal idea, and asserted that at this time there is no government initiative in that regard.

He reiterated that President Alfonsin has expressed his confidence in General Jose Dante Caridi and has confirmed him in his post as Army joint chief of staff so that he may proceed to restore normality in the ranks of the institution. Consequently, he stressed, the civilian government has not approved any negotiation clause.

In declarations regarding the military crisis to Radio Continental, the former federal judge said that the situation is gradually returning to normal. There is no sign that the crisis persists.

As for rebel leader Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin, Gil Saavedra said that he will be taken into custody by a military unit. He added that the "Albatross" group will be taken to the Campo de Mayo jail.

The Interior Secretary also said that during the time it takes for the troops to be withdrawn and disarmament to be completed, Col Seineldin will remain in the Villa Martelli unit to cooperate with those activities under orders of General Isidro Caceres.

Communist Party Shows Video on 4 Dec Incidents
PY0712205088 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS
in Spanish 1745 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 Dec (NA)—Following the showing of a video on the incidents of Sunday, 4 December, outside Villa Martelli, the Communist Party today denounced the "indiscriminate repression against the crowd of demonstrators." The incident ended with three people dead and 40 injured.

The video was shown during a press conference. It includes among other shots, the moment when a man is hit by a bullet, and how he tries to get up, but is shot at again.

The video also shows the moment when machinegun bursts were fired from a tank and an ambulance that were leaving, and how the demonstrators insulted the military.

The video also clearly shows how a young demonstrator is hit by a bullet that pierces his left thigh, and how his friends help him out by applying a tourniquet to his leg.

Just before the end, the video shows some 400 Buenos Aires police troops who were leaving, including some armed civilians who were giving orders to their followers.

After panning the front gate of the military garrison where the rebel troops seem to be uneasy and nervous, the camera also shows how demonstrators threw themselves on the ground to avoid being hit by machinegun fire.

Finally, the video, filmed by Communist Party cameramen, clearly shows how a group of approximately 30 policemen and soldiers brutally beat a civilian who had fallen defenseless onto the grass.

Industrial Exports Increase for Jan-Oct 1988
PY0712171988 Buenos Aires Domestic Service
in Spanish 1500 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Summary] Between January and October 1988, Argentina received \$1.95 billion for its industrial exports, excluding fuels. This implies an increase of more than 40 percent over the revenues obtained from industrial exports during the same period in 1987.

Cost of Living Increases 5.7 Percent in Nov
PY0712024388 Buenos Aires Domestic Service
in Spanish 0100 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Summary] The National Institute of Statistics and Census has reported that the cost of living in November increased 5.7 percent. According to a Central Bank report, the consumers' price index in November increased 5.7 percent.

Bolivia

Bomb Explodes in Chamber of Deputies
PY0812003788 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2242 GMT
7 Dec 88

[Text] La Paz, 7 Dec (EFE)—A medium-powered bomb exploded this afternoon at the Bolivian Chamber of Deputies, unofficial sources told EFE.

The bomb, which caused no injuries, exploded at 1823 local time (2223 GMT) at the Chamber speaker's office, which is adjacent to the room in which a regular session was being held at the time.

Message: 'Death to Congress'
PY0812015088 La Paz La Red Panamericana
in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] After the bomb incident, at approximately 1900 [2300 GMT] a Radio Panamericana employee came upon an envelope containing the following message:

Death to Congress. When the immense majority of our brothers are suffering from hunger, ignorance, and poverty, it is not a time for declarations and documents that are not backed by action.

It is a time for salary increases, for jobs, for the elimination of taxes on popular consumer goods, for soft loans for the poor campesinos. It is a time for prompt action by government health and educational agencies. It is the time that a popular welfare policy should be sought and promoted. It is the time to give just treatment to pensioners and all the people that have been relocated.

We know that the bourgeoisie will not lift a finger to satisfy these popular demands.

Therefore, the time has come to collect the debt of all our brothers, who must begin to organize, develop, and unleash the armed struggle, because [words indistinct] interests by the takeover of power.

We will conquer—victory or death.

This is the note's signature: Zarate [word indistinct] Armed Forces of Liberation [Fuerzas Armadas de Liberacion Zarate [word indistinct]]

Panamericana disseminated this note at 1910.

The National Police asked for this note in order to evaluate it.

Brazil

Sarney Warns Against 'Socialist Revolution'

PY0812022088 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 4 Dec 88 p 1

[Text] In an exclusive interview to O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, President Jose Sarney said: "Brazil is treading the path that leads to totalitarianism. We will then have a socialist revolution." In Sarney's opinion, "Brazil is leaning to the left and there are apparently no forces capable of reversing this situation." Sarney believes that the center is divided, and "that businessmen and politicians alike no longer cultivate the permanent values of liberal thinking. "Therefore," he warned, "keep your eyes wide open because the left is made up of determined people, who are very well organized and have well defined objectives." President Sarney believes he will have to hand his power to the left "if the center does not start to get organized."

Leftists Against Request To Impeach Sarney

PY0812030288 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 6 Dec 88 p 6

[Text] Brasilia—It is unlikely that the "Leftist" Parties will support the request to impeach President Jose Sarney which is included in the report of the Senate's CPI [Congressional Investigative Commission], which investigates charges of irregularities in the federal administration. Although it may strongly oppose the government, the leftist bloc is not willing to run the risk of causing an institutional crisis before the presidential elections scheduled for next year.

Deputy Jose Genoino, deputy leader of the PT, is one of the leftists who takes that position. He emphasizes that "nobody has opposed the government more than the PT." In 1984 it did not vote for Sarney at the electoral college; it has systematically opposed his administration. At the Constituent Assembly, it supported the 4-year term. However, although there is no tangible evidence of

a coming coup, he believes that the request for Sarney's impeachment should be carefully analyzed, since it is a very delicate subject. According to Genoino, the impeachment "could have unforeseeable consequences."

Deputy Aldo Arantes, leader of the Communist Party of Brazil, believes that although a request for impeachment should be approved by the Chamber of Deputies, "it is not the most advisable path for the opposition to take." Aldo Arantes believes that the best thing would be to amend the Constitution to reduce the presidential term, as his party proposed. However, the Communist leader does not believe that approving the CPI report would exacerbate the crisis, which he attributes exclusively to the loss of credibility of Sarney's government and its failure to curb inflation.

"The phantom of a military coup is being used again, as it was when the length of the presidential term was being voted on."

According to Aldo Arantes, the best proof that the arguments against the CPI report are weakening is the fact that those who supported a 5-year presidential term at the Constituent Assembly are now sorry about their decision.

Government Interested in Gorbachev UN Address

PY0712235388 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2155 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Excerpts] Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has said that Brazil should participate in international talks to resolve current issues.

Gorbachev made a surprising speech before the United Nations in New York during which he announced that he will pardon small debtors and reduce the number of weapons and soldiers in the socialist bloc. [passage omitted]

Gorbachev voiced his hopes for a more powerful United Nations through which all international decisions will be channeled. He insisted that other countries should participate in decisions affecting the future of the world, and he mentioned Japan, India, the PRC, and Brazil as new powers. [passage omitted]

Itamaraty has disclosed that the Brazilian Government has received, with great interest, the speech made in New York by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and that a copy of Gorbachev's speech to the United Nations has been requested.

According to Itamaraty, the Brazilian Government will officially comment on Gorbachev's statement once the contents of the speech have been analyzed.

French Administration Minister Meets Sarney

PY0212235388 *Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese*
2100 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Administration Minister Aluizio Alves has said that Brazil is using French experience in the specifications of Brazilian job descriptions and salaries in the public sector. Alves and French Minister of Civil Service and Administration Reform, Michel Durafour, today met with President Jose Sarney at the Alvorada Palace. [passage omitted]

Brazilian-EEC Business Council Created

PY0712204288 *Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese*
6 Dec 88 p 20

[Text] The EEC wants to promote joint investment in Brazil's industrial sector. It is also interested in the transfer of technology, cooperation in high technology areas, and research and development. On 5 December Abel Matutes, an EEC minister, announced this during the ceremony during which the Brazilian-EEC Business Council [Conselho de Negocios Brasil-Comunidade Europeia] was created. This council has the objective of increasing the rapprochement for the implementation of projects for debt conversion, joint transfer of technology, the training of manpower, and for the expansion of bilateral trade.

Matutes explained that businessmen will decide on the forms of participation. We are interested in cooperating with new technologies in pharmacology, the medical area, and energy.

The council, which met during the afternoon of 5 December to outline the guidelines for the coming 6 months, will be composed of 21 representatives from the private sector: 11 Brazilians and 10 Europeans. Luis Otavio Vieira, vice president of the National Industrial Confederation, has been named president of the Brazilian Department.

Matutes stated that the opening of the internal European frontiers, which will go into effect in 1992, will lead to the expansion of the EEC's economic base, and as a direct consequence increase internal and external exchange of trade. In saying this he was trying to dispel the fear felt by some Brazilian businessmen that there will be a contraction in the short term within the European market as a consequence of the measures that will be implemented in 1992.

Newsman With Tourist Visa Expelled From Havana

PY0712195088 *Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese*
6 Dec 88 p 6

[Text] Brasilia—Alleging that it has not received information from the Cuban Government, the Cuban Embassy declined making any comment on the case of Brazilian newsman Ilson de Almeida who reported that he had been arrested and expelled from Havana.

Almeida said that the reason the Cuban Government officials gave for their decision was that he was working without authorization, and that he only had a tourist visa. Today or tomorrow, the Cuban Embassy should release the Cuban Government's version of the episode. A female official at the Cuban Embassy, however, expressed doubt about the newsman's complaint that he was badly fed.

Chile

Londono Pays 'Courtesy Visit' to Pinochet

PY0712151588 *Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish*
0930 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] Colombian Foreign Minister Colonel Julio Londono Paredes, who is visiting Chile at the invitation of his Chilean counterpart, Hernan Felipe Errazuriz, paid a courtesy visit to the head of state.

During the meeting, bilateral relations, especially concerning trade and cultural issues, were discussed.

Colombian Ambassador to Chile, Jorge Enrique Rodriguez, and the Colombian Economic Affairs Under Secretary [title as heard], Jorge Luis Ordonez, were also present at the meeting.

The Chilean head of state was accompanied by Foreign Minister Errazuriz, Chilean Ambassador to Colombia Carlos Denegri, and Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Colonel Ramon Valdes.

Economy Minister Back From GATT Conference

PY0612234888 *Santiago Radio Chilena Network*
in Spanish 2200 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Text] Economy Minister Hernan Buchi this afternoon returned from Montreal, Canada, where he participated in the GATT conference.

Upon arriving in Santiago, the minister said that the GATT member countries should continue efforts to open their economies. He added that Chile is striving for that objective because the government is convinced that it is the best system for the development of the nation and the well-being of its people.

Terrorists Blow Up Electric Tower, Posts

PY0512181988 *Santiago Television Nacional de Chile*
Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] A high-power electric tower and five electricity posts were toppled by the action of subversives early this morning in the area of Temuco. Tower 615 of the Charrua grid was blown up with explosives, as were five electricity posts in the zones of Licun, Intenco, El Cajon, and Pitusten.

As a result, the electricity supply to Temuco was cut off, but it was later gradually restored.

Bombs, Blackouts, Disorders Reported in Capital
PY0612201988 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0418 GMT
6 Dec 88

[Text] Santiago, 5 Dec (EFE)—A number of attacks with explosive and incendiary bombs were recorded tonight in the western sector of this capital, just 2 months after the presidential plebiscite when the candidacy of General Augusto Pinochet was defeated. Pinochet has been in power for 15 years.

The government news agency "ORBE" has reported that two explosive devices went off in the western sector of Bernardo O'Higgins Avenue, damaging electricity poles but causing no casualties.

In the same sector, two armed, unidentified individuals set a public transport vehicle on fire. No injuries were caused to the passengers.

ORBE has also reported on partial electricity cuts in several sectors of three heavily populated neighborhoods in Santiago.

Street disorders and the burning of tires on streets have been recorded in other sectors of the capital.

Caceres: Military To Resume 'Specific Tasks'
PY0612003288 Santiago FORTIN MAPOCHO
in Spanish 2 Dec 88 p 24

[Excerpts] "From now on, complying with the terms of the Constitution, the Armed Forces and the forces of order will resume their specific tasks. They will defend the fatherland and the democratic and free institutional order which are characteristics of our national tradition."

Interior Minister Carlos Caceres made these remarks in a speech delivered at La Serena during a ceremony in which the military intendent of the 4th Region handed the regional administration over to civilian Intendent Alberto Cooper Valencia. [passage omitted]

Caceres added that the political transition is nearing its end. "It is proper and fitting that the Armed Forces gradually hand over the administrative tasks, which they performed so well, to the civilians."

Even when the country is prepared to live in democracy, "the authorities must remain on the alert because the democratic system can easily be destroyed or distorted as a result of attacks by those who support violence or by the adoption of policies that assign too much power to the state [politicas Estatistas]."

"The government will end this term in office as established by the Constitution, and it hopes to see the country adopt the principles, spiritual values, and policies which have characterized the Armed Forces and Carabineros regime." [passage omitted]

New Army Deputy Commander Assumes Post
PY0512183188 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish
2 Dec 88 p C-1

[Summary] Yesterday, General Jorge Zincke Quiroz assumed the post of Army deputy commander. This post had been previously held by General Santiago Sinclair.

Radical Democracy Party President Resigns
PY0512183388 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish
2 Dec 88 p C-3

[Summary] Radical Democracy Party President Jaime Tormo has irrevocably resigned his post. Party Treasurer Juan Esteban Montero might take over as president of the party.

PCCh Announces Start of National Congress
PY0612011088 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish
2200 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Text] PCCh leaders announced that the PCCh National Congress that started in recent hours throughout the country is designed to reorganize the PCCh leadership and to promote a policy of popular rebellion of the masses.

Americo Zorrilla said that no deadline has been set for discussing proposals, but he noted that the work at PCCh cell level could end by late January.

Zorrilla disclosed some highlights of a 23-page document that touches on the experience gained during the Allende government, as well as on the future of the PCCh, which seeks to obtain legal recognition after going through a soul-searching exercise which the PCCh members call their own perestroyka.

In their very special way of perceiving politics, the communists use the verb push time and again to refer to the PCCh behavior toward the masses and toward opposition parties as well.

Mireya Baltra criticized opposition sectors for their idleness and for engaging in disputes over nominations. She made it clear that it was the PCCh that provided the dynamic and driving force in the latest campaign.

Baltra clearly stated that the PCCh opposes a policy of superstructures, a clear reference to the coalition led by the Christian Democratic Party. She also criticized the opposition's lukewarm reaction to privatization.

Jose Sanfuentes was more direct on this issue. He said that the future government, in which they obviously intend to participate, will reverse the privatization process.

According to Americo Zorrilla, there were 287,000 PCCh members in 1973. There are fewer members now, he confessed. He noted, however, that when the time comes and an appropriate legal framework exists, the PCCh will be eligible for recognition as a political party almost

immediately. This is similar to what is happening with the Broad Party of the Socialist Left, PAIS, which announced that it will have the required signatures in 1 month.

Central Bank Official To Leave; Job Completed
PY0612202788 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Text] Hernan Sommerville, Central Bank foreign debt coordinator, has announced that he will leave his position at the end of the month because the Chilean foreign debt has already been rescheduled and substantially reduced, and his mission has thus ended.

Sommerville said the debt with the creditor banks has been reduced from the \$14 billion Chile owed in 1983 to the current \$8 billion. He also pointed out that, in spite of the debt, Chile has been experiencing a steady economic growth, and that the inflationary process is under control.

Colombia

National Police Official on Narcotics Seizures
PA0712223988 Bogota LA PRENSA in Spanish 1 Dec 88 p 11

[Summary] Yesterday, General Guillermo Munoz Sanabria, commander of the National Police Antinarcotics Division, spoke at the opening of a criminology conference in Bogota. Gen Munoz said the Colombian police have seized 18 tons of pure cocaine during 1988 in spite of the lack of adequate resources—including aircraft and boats—to patrol areas where drug traffickers operate with their own sophisticated systems, which include airplanes and boats. Nevertheless, the official said, the police have stepped up operations against the cocaine laboratories, and he cited important successes in Tolima, Cauca, and Antioquia Departments. Gen Munoz added that police operations included the seizure of 800 tons of marijuana, and the destruction of 900 hectares of marijuana plants and 900 hectares of coca plants.

He said that one of their most important achievements in this area was countering the traffic in opium, which is aimed at creating demand for a new drug in Colombia.

*** INCORA To Expropriate Drug Traffickers' Land**
53002025x Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 24 Oct 88 pp 1-A, 9-A

[Article by Myriam Astrid Montoya: "Ossa: 'INCORA Will Not Refrain From Acquiring Land Owned by Narcos'"]

[Text] Bogota—INCORA [Colombian Agrarian Reform Institute] director Carlos Ossa Escobar has asserted that, during his administration, INCORA will not refrain from acquiring land owned by drug traffickers when it is needed to develop the agrarian reform program.

He also announced that he already "has his eyes" on two pieces of property located on the Atlantic coast and will initiate the appropriate steps for presenting a purchase offer.

Law 30 of 1988 and Regulatory Decree 2107 of last 12 October provide that, if the owner refuses the offer or does not accept it within the time limit specified for replying, the institute will render a decision declaring that acquisition of the property is of use to the public or in the public interest and will order its expropriation.

With regard to the specific fact that the properties to be appropriated may belong to alleged drug traffickers, the official commented: "I've said that a person's name appears in the property records and the narco's alias is not given."

In expressing his affirmation, Ossa added: "We're going to develop our agrarian reform programs by looking for concentrations of land, that is, we're going to concentrate INCORA activity in order to prevent it from being scattered over properties located far from one another in the same municipality, and we're going to appropriate those properties that are big. If they belong to drug traffickers, we're going to act without any regard for that fact."

With regard to plans for this year, he said: "We're going to take action in Sucre, Cordoba and Bolivar. If it turns out that there are large estates bought by narcos that are needed by INCORA to promote its agrarian reform program, we will proceed in accordance with the law."

Furthermore, the director announced that he would present the zonification plan for 1989 to the board of directors next week.

He began by explaining that this year the program covers 95 municipalities and 13 departments for the purpose of acquiring 70,000 hectares, 34,000 of which are in agrarian reform zones and 36,000 of which are in National Rehabilitation Plan zones. To date, approximately 50,000 hectares have been acquired.

For 1989, they plan to double that goal, that is, attain a figure of 140,000 hectares in 190 municipalities and 18 departments. "We do not believe that this is an ambitious goal. Perhaps it may be one for those who are accustomed to INCORA not taking action because in its 25-year history it has scarcely succeeded in appropriating 800,000 hectares. The government's plan is to attain a figure of 400,000 in 4 years."

To its way of thinking, the problem is that "in this country there has never been the political determination to implement agrarian reform. Everyone criticizes INCORA for not having achieved this goal. Instead, I would say that here we have to criticize the Liberal Party and the Conservative Party for not having permitted the institute to implement agrarian reform."

In regard to concern over the fact that the properties for which INCORA is currently negotiating are being offered by their owners, which leads one to suppose that their aim is to "get them off the tax rolls," Ossa Escobar noted: "We're being very rigorous in our selection and, since a large number of properties have been voluntarily offered for sale, we can choose the best ones."

He admitted that mistakes may be made and explained that this happens "because INCORA has no leadership." He was confident that next year, when Law 30 is fully applied, the institute will be the one to determine which programs and properties it wants. "Then, voluntary offers are going to greatly decline in number."

And lastly, he made it clear that the situation would have to be viewed in terms of a more precise standard: "Owners often offer their properties voluntarily—the latter in quotation marks; that is, they have no choice because the guerrillas don't let them return to their farms, using extortion."

Military Appointments, Promotions Announced

PA0812024688 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish
1 Dec 88 pp 1-A, 13-A

[Summary] The government has issued two decrees authorizing the following Armed Forces appointments and promotions: Major Generals Pedro Nel Molano Vanegas and Alfonso Amaya Maldonado have been promoted to the rank of general of the Republic and Vice Admiral Manuel Fernando Avendano Galvis to the rank of admiral. Molano Vanegas has been named chief of Armed Forces joint chiefs of staff and Avendano Galvis as Navy commander. Their promotions are effective 10 December. Amaya Maldonado is appointed commander of the Air Force and his promotion takes effect 1 December.

Other promotions include: Brigadier Generals Hernando Monsalve Figueroa, Luis Angel Diaz Diaz, and Ramon Emilio Gil Bermudez to major general; and Rear Admirals Alberto Sandoval Solano and Alvaro Campos Castaneda to vice admiral. Brigadier Generals Jaime Humberto Neira Garcia, Luis Alberto Rodriguez Rodriguez, and Eduardo Plata Quinones are promoted to major general. Maj Gen Monsalve Figueroa is named Air Force inspector general; Maj Gen Diaz Diaz, manager of the National Territorial Air Service; Vice Adm Sandoval Solano, director of the Maritime and Port General Directorate [Direccion General Maritima y Portuaria]; Maj Gen Neira Garcia, deputy chief of Armed Forces joint chiefs of staff; Major General Daniel Enrique Garcia Echeverry, Army inspector general; Major General Luis Eduardo Roca Maichel, inspector general of military forces; and Vice Adm Carlos Enrique Ospina Cubillos, Navy inspector general.

*** Pablo Escobar's Cousin Assassinated in Bogota**

53002039z Bogota SEMANA in Spanish 15 Nov 88 p 34

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] It was barely noon when a man who had just arrived on a flight from Medellin went into the National Bookstore to buy some newspapers.

Meanwhile, his bodyguard-chauffeur waited for him in the lobby. The man with the newspapers, a cattleman named Gustavo de Jesus Escobar Fernandez, had just left the bookstore when the trouble started. Escobar was preparing to go to his car when a man approached him. The man, around 35 years old and 5 feet 9 inches tall, took out a 7.65 caliber pistol and began firing. Panic spread throughout the terminal as people threw themselves on the floor to avoid being shot.

Escobar immediately fell to the floor as his attacker tried to escape through one of the exits. Apparently, he did not take into account the presence of the bodyguard, who had enough time to draw his gun and shoot the aggressor, who died at the scene. Escobar Fernandez was taken to the San Pedro Claver Clinic, where he was pronounced dead on arrival. But the tragic event did not end there. A 20-year-old woman who was at the airport, Maria Florez Gutierrez, was seriously wounded and her condition was listed as serious when this edition went to print.

Early details did not clarify the motivation for the attack. According to documents found in his clothing, in addition to his activities as a cattleman, Gustavo de Jesus Escobar was a legal advisor in Congress, although this was denied by spokesmen from that institution. Things took another turn that evening, when the television news program 24 Hours reported that Escobar Fernandez was the cousin of Pablo Escobar Gaviria. This gave rise to the supposition that the attack was linked to the series of killings in the so-called "cartel war."

As to the attacker, neither his real motives nor his identity were known at the end of the week. [passage omitted]

*** Economic Effect of Guerrilla Violence Noted**

33480051a Medellin EL COLOMBIANO in Spanish
9 Nov 88 p 5-B

[Article by Charles Lambelin: "Guerrilla Violence Affects Country's Economic Growth"]

[Text] Bogota (Reuter)—Colombia's economy is healthy in spite of the fact that guerrilla violence will lower the country's growth rate by 0.5 percent this year, said Finance Minister Luis Fernando Alarcon Mantilla.

The official, who participated in a seminar on the economy in Bucaramanga over the weekend, stated that the gross domestic product will grow by 4.5 percent, as opposed to 5.6 percent in 1987 and 5.1 percent in 1986.

"Most Colombians, business interests, and the government have demonstrated that they can overcome the uncertainty caused by terrorists. This and several well-planned government policies give the country good reason to be optimistic about its future," the minister said.

Budget Deficit

Bank of the Republic chief Francisco J. Ortega said, however, that the budget deficit will grow slightly due to increased expenditures for maintaining law and order.

"There will be a small increase in the 1988 budget deficit because of greater costs for maintaining public security and because of Ecopetrol's deteriorating financial situation (due to reduced exports) as a result of terrorist activity," Ortega admitted.

Ecopetrol, the state petroleum enterprise, has been the target of a wave of guerrilla attacks against the country's main petroleum pipeline by the Army of National Liberation.

The pipeline that carries crude from Cravo Norte near the Venezuelan border to the port of Covenas on the Atlantic coast has been dynamited 50 times by this subversive group.

Peru

Two French Engineers, Judge Murdered in Aquira
PY0712023688 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1913 GMT
6 Dec 88

[Text] Lima, 6 Dec (EFE)—The Maoist Shining Path guerrilla group has murdered four engineers, two of them French, and a judge in the small town of Aquira.

According to reports received here today, these people were murdered early Sunday morning, 4 December.

Regarding the French engineers, Thomas Pellissier and Corine Seguin, the French Embassy would neither confirm nor deny the report to EFE. It stated that the Embassy has not yet received any reliable information.

These French agronomists have been working for the International Cooperation Center for Agricultural Development (CICDA) [Centro Internacional de Cooperacion al Desarrollo Agricola] together with two other Peruvian colleagues.

Pellissier has been working in Aquira for 1 year, and Seguin has been in Peru for only 30 days.

The fifth victim of the Shining Path guerrillas is Justice of the Peace, Andres Paredes.

Aquira is located in the southern Department of Apurimac, which is in an area under a state of exception because of the intensive terrorist activity.

Local ham radio operators have reported from Aquira about the assassinations carried out by some 50 Shining Path members. They reportedly forced seven [as received] persons out of CICDA's offices and took them to the local parade ground, where they gave them a "people's trial."

The five were then murdered, and, according to a report, the CICDA offices were burned.

A helicopter will be sent to Aquira to bring out the bodies, because land access to this town is very difficult.

Fisheries Minister on Agreement With USSR
PY0712115088 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish
0100 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] The Peruvian Enterprise for Fishing Services, PESEP, and the Soviet Fishing Industry of the Northern Basin MA, Sevryba, signed a fishing cooperation agreement within the framework of an agreement signed by the Governments of Peru and the Soviet Union in 1971. The Peruvian and Soviet fishing ministers attended the ceremony during which the agreement was signed.

[Begin Peruvian Fisheries Minister Romulo Leon Alegria recording] These agreements deal with the volume of fishing that is technically established by the Peruvian Sea Institute, which is a scientific institute, as well as the zones where fishing is allowed. I am sure that the Soviet fleet will observe these guidelines. Moreover, each vessel will carry representatives from the Fisheries Ministry, the Peruvian Sea Institute, and the Peruvian Navy. In other words, there will be three Peruvian representatives carrying out scientific research as well as supervising the fulfillment of the agreement.

Moreover, we will have satellite information. According to the terms of this agreement, the Soviet Union agrees to supply us with information which will tell us exactly where the fleet is stationed. This means that the Soviet fleet is authorized to fish 400 tons per year in volumes according to the available stock of jurel mackerel, hake, and the like. This means that Peru will be granted 17.5 percent of the total production—that is, clean fish ready for consumption and the total production of fish oil and fishmeal manufactured from the waste.

[Reporter] What are Peru's commitments?

[Alegria] Peru will receive approximately \$25 million worth of fish per year, free of cost. We will merely receive the fish. The expenditure we will have to make is in marketing it nationwide. In other words, Peru will receive 75,000 tons, which represents 17.5 percent of the production, to distribute at a very low price in the most needy sectors of our country. This is very important, because we are going to increase our fish supply at very low prices and in easy terms. [end recording]

Bank Federation Suspends Strike for 72 Hours
PY0312160788 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish
1040 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] Economy Minister Carlos Rivas Davila has announced the suspension of the strike being conducted by the Peruvian Bank Employees Federation. He called the meeting that was held with the federation's leaders positive.

Rivas said the suspension will begin on 5 December and last for 72 hours while the federation reports to the rank and file on the agreement reached. He added that the strike may be lifted on 7 or 8 December.

Rivas also announced that the new general guidelines of the government economic program will be disclosed to Congress on 5 December. He added that the economic plan's main objectives are an all-out struggle against inflation and measures to improve the standard of living of the poor sectors. He also said that well-known economists of different sectors are cooperating with the Economy and Finance Ministry.

*** Agriculture Minister on Food Subsidies**
33480026b Lima EL NACIONAL in Spanish
16 Oct 88 p 2

[Text] Lima, 15 October—Minister of Agriculture Juan Manuel Coronado Balmaceda claimed that he does not favor subsidies for food over the long term, if it is our precise intention to have a society with a sound economy. He said that the circumstances require that a policy of subsidies be implemented every 2 years, because agriculture is a very flexible activity, reacting rapidly to a stimulating measures; he added that if it fails to respond during that interval it is because the measures were poorly implemented.

He disclosed that in the case of rice, which has a 70-percent subsidy, approximately \$140 million per year is being paid causing the state to eliminate one irrigation per year.

He explained that one of the reasons that the farmers are not being paid is that ECASA [Rice Marketing Enterprise] purchases the rice for 160 intis per kg, selling most of it for 60 intis per kg; hence, it requires a subsidy of 100 intis. The new minister remarked: "We have moved from being a country with efficient agriculture to a series of situations that have not been well managed, and this has caused our deterioration in agriculture."

Venezuela

Defense Minister Reports Colombian Border Clash
PA0712203188 Paris AFP in Spanish 1928 GMT
7 Dec 88

[Text] Caracas, 7 Dec (AFP)—Venezuelan Defense Minister General Italo del Valle [name and title as received] confirmed today that there was an "exchange of gunfire"

on the southern part of the Arauca River, on the Colombian border. He was referring to attacks on a dredge and a military post on the Venezuelan side of the river by individuals from the other side of the river.

The dredge "Apure" was attacked Tuesday by two boats in the Bayonero Channel while the dredge was performing cleanup work. A Navy infantry sergeant died in the skirmish from a heart attack, del Valle said.

Another attack, which was on the Victoria Military Post, an Army battalion base, occurred Monday night, according to the newspaper EL UNIVERSAL.

"In the last few hours, it has been a fairly tense situation in that area," del Valle said.

In another channel of the Arauca River called La Colorado, 14 Venezuelan fishermen were killed on 29 October because they were thought to be Colombian guerrillas. The whole southwestern area of Apure State is considered a "red zone" by the Venezuelan authorities as a result of incursions by Colombian criminals and guerrillas.

The death of the fishermen was a "national scandal" on the eve of last Sunday's presidential and legislative elections.

Guyana

State Media Reports Agreement Signed With PRC
FL0512203188 Bridgetown CANA in English
1457 GMT 5 Dec 88

[text] Georgetown, Guyana, Dec 5, CANA—Guyana and China have signed an agreement authorising the Guyana Government to "hand over" two claybrick and two tile factories to local private companies, the state media reported. For more than a decade now, China has been assisting Guyana with the production of claybricks, clayblocks and clay tiles. At present, the main Bellu claybrick factory, set up with Chinese assistance, is being run by the state-owned Guyana National Engineering Corporation.

The reports gave few details, but named the two local companies involved in the "take-over" as Hardford Industries, Ltd of Georgetown and Deens, Ltd of Corentyne Berbice. Each company will, reportedly, own one claybrick factory and one tile factory. The price and conditions under which the factories are being acquired were not stated.

It was reported, however, that the companies will receive "technical assistance" from Guyana's Institute of Applied Science and Technology (IAST) and "technical inputs" from Chinese technicians.

Signing the agreement Friday were head of Guyana's Department of International Economic Cooperation (DIEC), Dr Cecil Rajana, and Chinese Ambassador to Guyana, Yang Zengye.

The handover of the factories to local companies is in keeping with the government's stepped-up programme of facilitating greater participation in the economy by the private sector. As part of that drive, a joint West German and Venezuelan mission is now in the country discussing their possible involvement in the local forestry sector.

According to New Nation, the official organ of the ruling people's National Congress, the purpose of the visit by representatives of Palmaven of Venezuela and Veba Oil of West Germany, "is to get involved in a joint venture arrangement with Demerara Woods, Ltd to produce timber, lumber, pilings etc".

Demerara Woods is a relatively new state-owned company, which runs a big forestry complex at Mabura Hill in Guyana's vast hinterland. The company has not been meeting its targets and continues to chalk up sizeable deficits as it runs afoul of government's policy that public sector companies must make profits or "go to the wall".

Mining Agreement Reached With Venezuelan Firm
FL0312175488 Bridgetown CANA in English
1358 GMT 1 Dec 88

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Dec 1, CANA—The Guyana Mining Enterprise Ltd (Guymine) has entered into an arrangement with Interalumina of Venezuela for the supply of 1.1 million tons of Guyana's bauxite over a 3 year period, a top bauxite official told CANA.

As part of the arrangement, the official said, Dayco, another Venezulean company, has been contracted to open a new mine in Guyana, with the ore to be processed by Guymine and shipped to Interalumina in Puerto Raz, Venezuela.

According to chairman of the Bauxite Industry Development Company (BIDCO), Bernard Crawford, the arrangements were finalised last week when a Guyanese delegation headed by Deputy Prime Minister Haslyn Parris visited Venezuela for talks. Crawford said the 1.1 million tons of bauxite to be shipped to Interalumina represent bauxite in addition to amounts already being shipped to Venezuela under an agreement between the two countries.

Dayco will have to open a new mine in the Kwakwani area in Berbice, eastern Guyana, starting from scratch, removing the overburden to get at the ore and building roads. It has already started mobilising and its team of about "half a dozen" persons should arrive here this month, officials reported. Dayco will be shipping in its own equipment and while its personnel will be superintending the mining operations, local labour and skills will be utilized.

Crawford explained that the deal with Dayco is somewhat similar to a recently ended contractual arrangement with the Green Construction Company, an American company, which was involved in the mining of ore here. He said that in the case of the arrangement with Dayco, they will mine the ore at Kwakwani, "hand it over to us at Kwakwani and we will take it to our plant at Everton, process it there, then export it to Interalumina in Venezuela.

He said that in keeping with the agreement, Guymine should export 400,000 tons of bauxite in the 1st year, another 400,000 tons in the 2d year and 300,000 tons in the 3d and final year.

Meanwhile, responding to other queries about the local bauxite industry, Crawford confirmed that not much headway has been made with plans for rehabilitating the alumina plant Linden, which has been closed since 1982. He also indicated that Guymine hopes to start "drawing down" shortly from the 35 million U.S. dollars aid package already approved by the European Community to assist with the rehabilitation of the industry.